NEOPOLIS

PECQUEUR · MALFIN · SCHELLE & ROSA

Golden City

2. BANKS VERSUS BANKS

SERIE B

DELCOURT

Golden City

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DELCOURT

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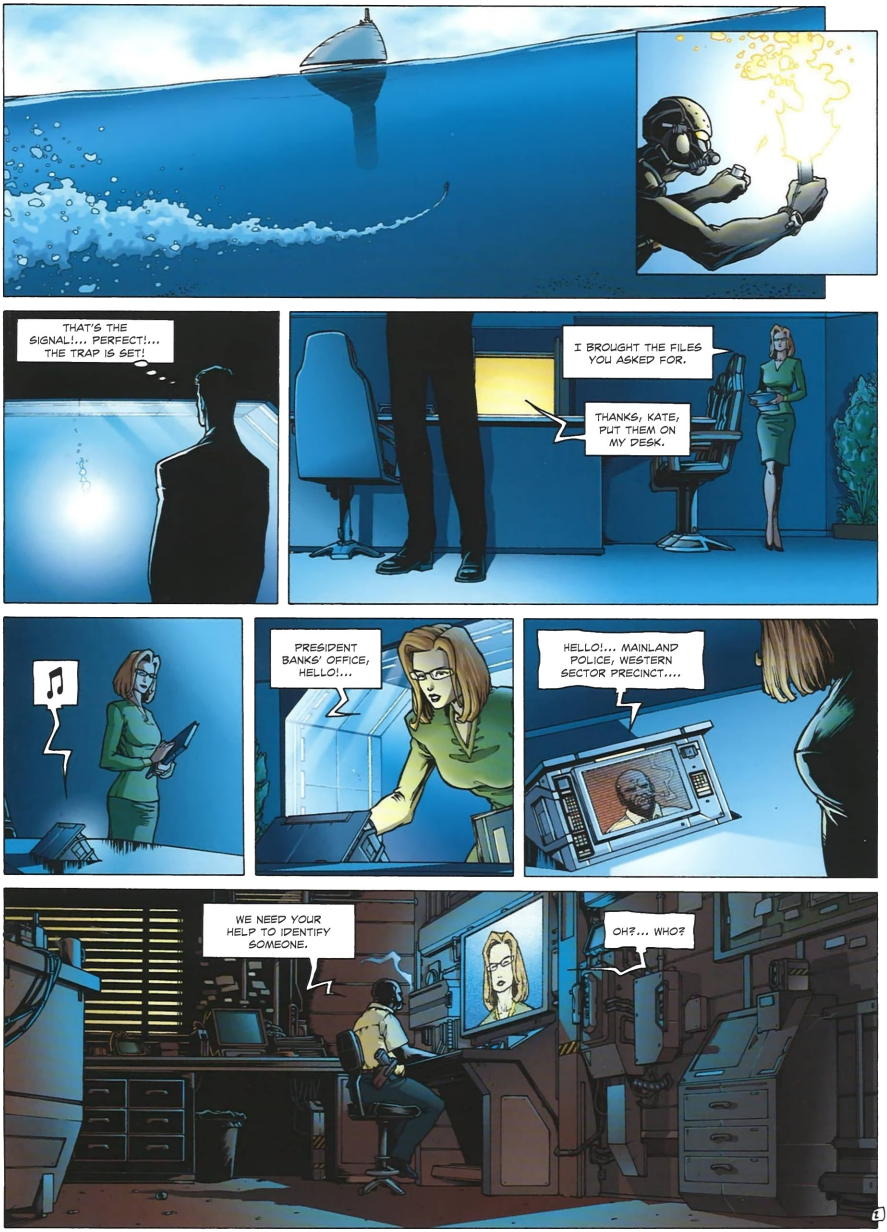
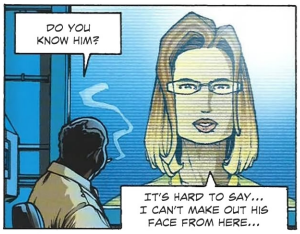
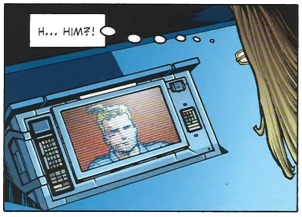
DELCOURT


THAT'S THE SIGNAL!... PERFECT!... THE TRAP IS SET!
I BROUGHT THE FILES YOU ASKED FOR.
THANKS, KATE; PUT THEM ON MY DESK.
PRESIDENT BANKS' OFFICE, HELLO!...
HELLO!... MAINLAND POLICE, WESTERN SECTOR PRECINCT....
WE NEED YOUR HELP TO IDENTIFY SOMEONE.
OH?... WHO?

THAT MAN!


DO YOU KNOW HIM?
IT'S HARD TO SAY... I CAN'T MAKE OUT HIS FACE FROM HERE...

I'LL ZOOM IN SO YOU CAN SEE BETTER.

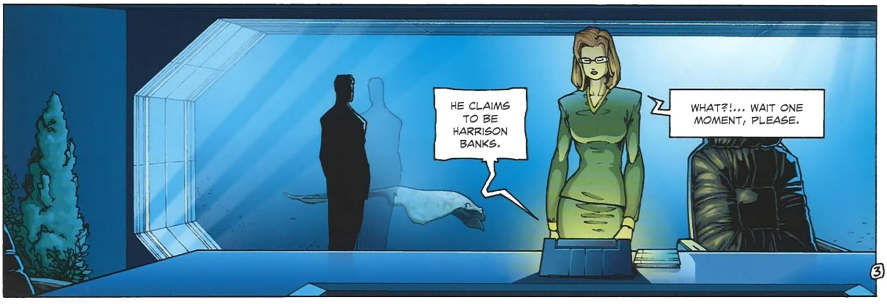

H... HIM?!

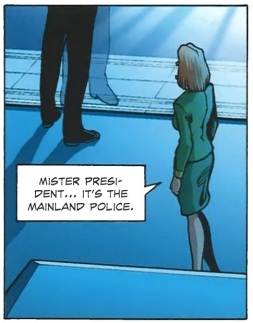
THEY QUESTIONED ME ALL NIGHT... I CAN'T TAKE IT... TELL THEM WHO I AM, KATE... THEY WON'T BELIEVE ME!

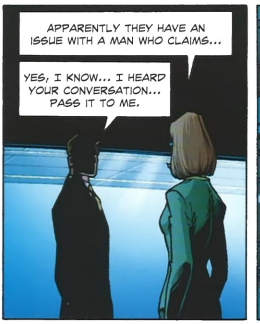
WHO YOU ARE?... BUT I DON'T KNOW, SIR!... I DON'T KNOW YOU!... IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN YOU!

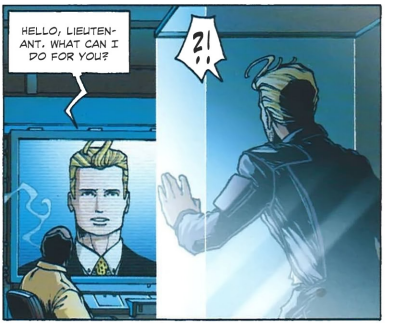
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "FIRST TIME"?! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?... IT'S ME, KATE!... ME!

I DON'T KNOW HOW THAT MAN KNOWS MY NAME, LIEUTENANT, BUT I'M CERTAIN I'VE NEVER MET HIM BEFORE. WHO IS HE?


HE CLAIMS TO BE HARRISON BANKS.
WHAT?!... WAIT ONE MOMENT, PLEASE.

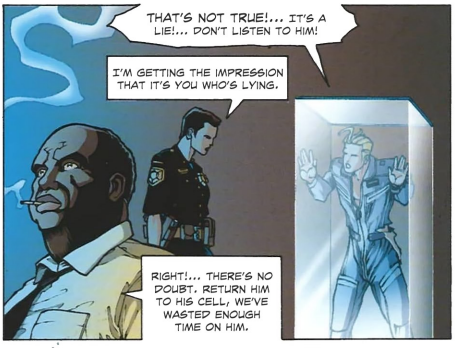

MISTER PRESIDENT... IT'S THE MAINLAND POLICE.

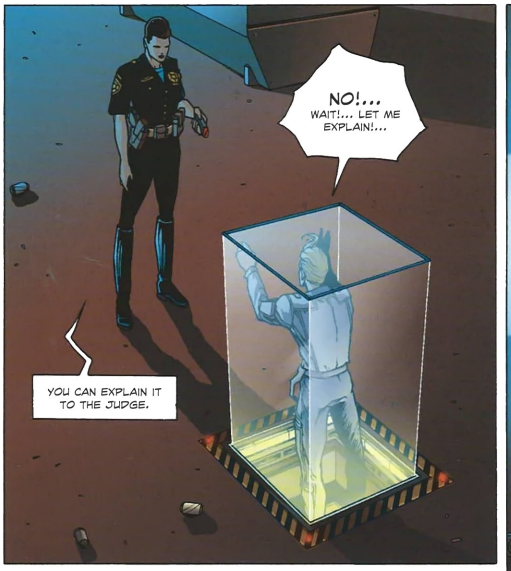

APPARENTLY THEY HAVE AN ISSUE WITH A MAN WHO CLAIMS...
YES, I KNOW... I HEARD YOUR CONVERSATION... PASS IT TO ME.


HELLO, LIEUTENANT. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
2!

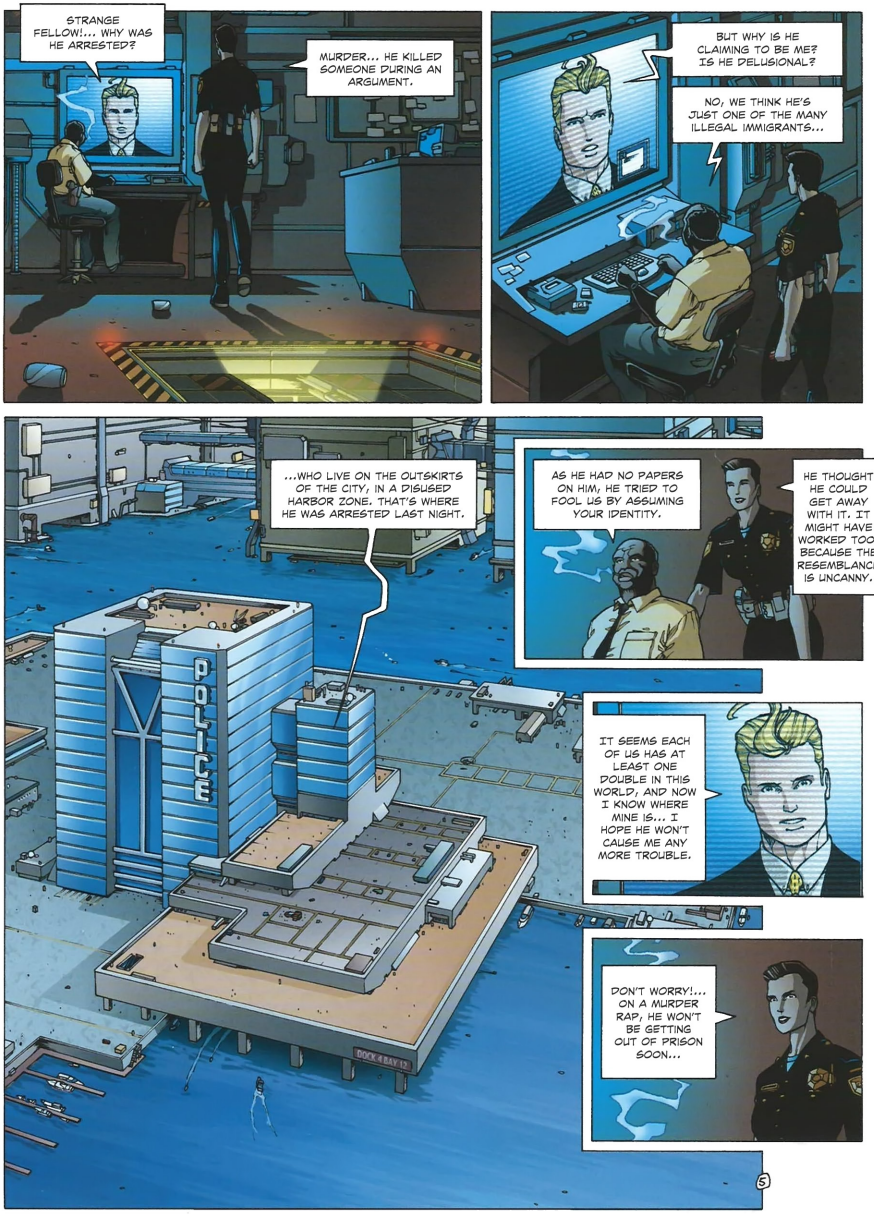
B... BUT WHO ARE YOU?!

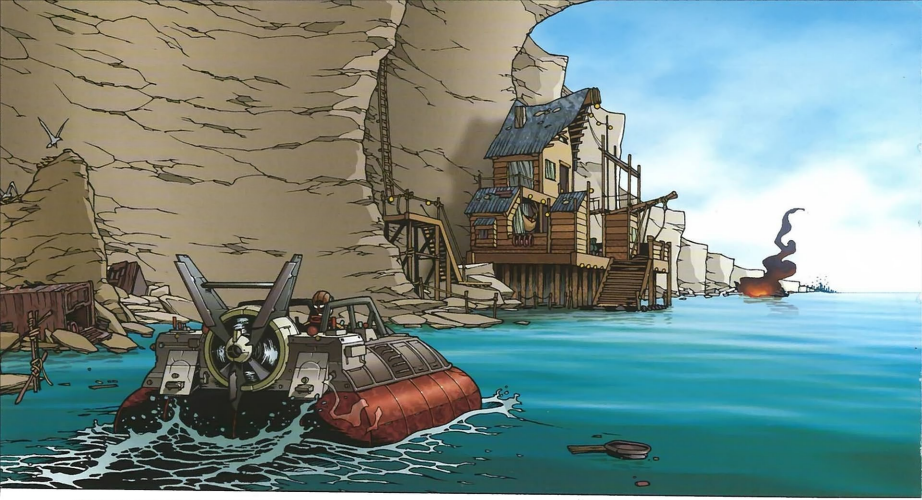
HARRISON BANKS!... AND YOU?

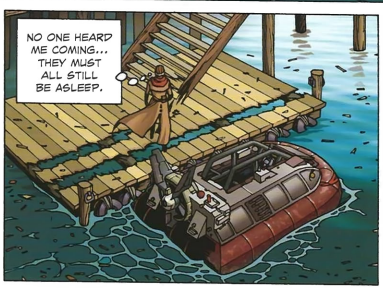

THAT'S NOT TRUE!... IT'S A LIE!... DON'T LISTEN TO HIM!
I'M GETTING THE IMPRESSION THAT IT'S YOU WHO'S LYING.
RIGHT!... THERE'S NO DOUBT. RETURN HIM TO HIS CELL, WE'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME ON HIM.


NO!... WAIT!... LET ME EXPLAIN!...
YOU CAN EXPLAIN IT TO THE JUDGE.

I'M TELLING YOU, THAT MAN IS AN IMPOSTER!... I'M HARRISON BANKS, DO YOU HEAR ME?!
SURE... AND I'M SANTA CLAUS.

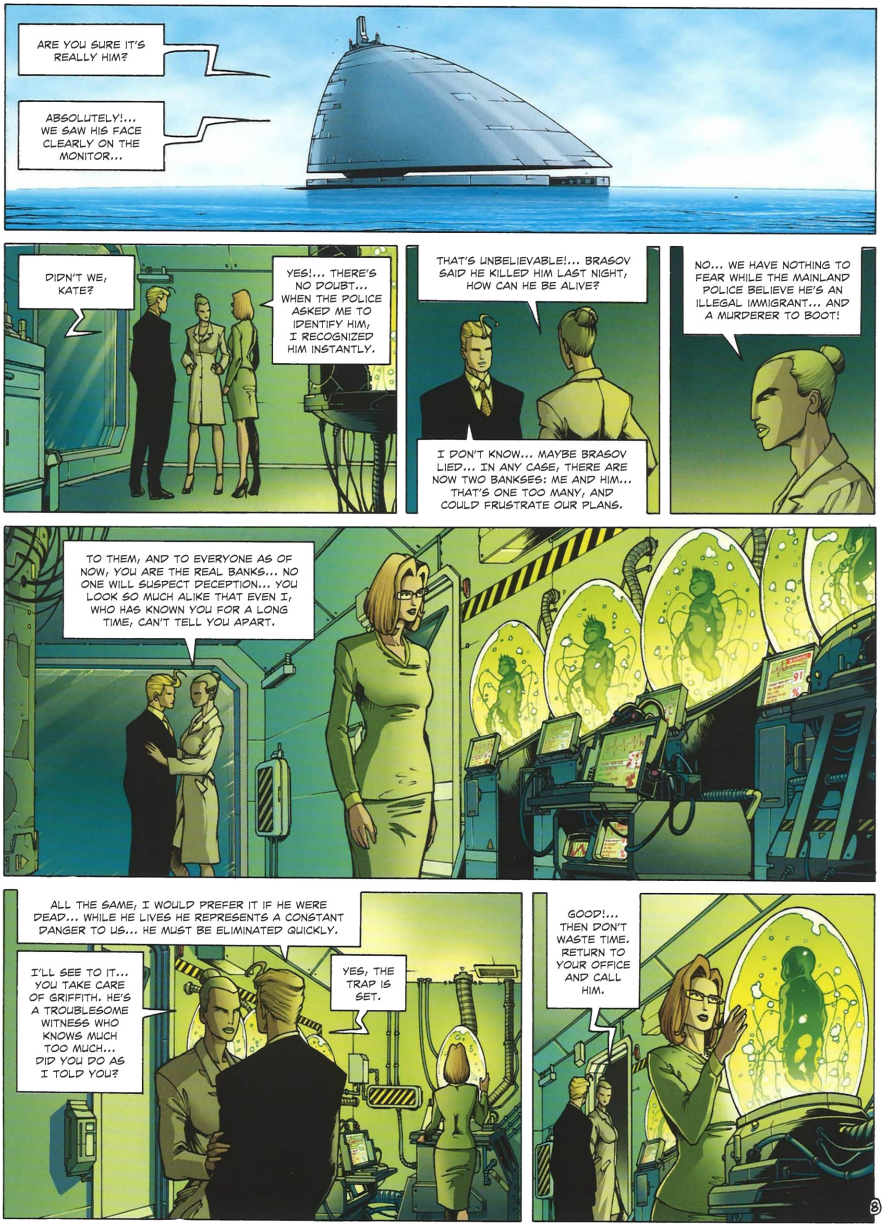

STRANGE FELLOW!... WHY WAS HE ARRESTED?
MURDER... HE KILLED SOMEONE DURING AN ARGUMENT.
BUT WHY IS HE CLAIMING TO BE ME? IS HE DELUSIONAL?
NO, WE THINK HE'S JUST ONE OF THE MANY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS...
...WHO LIVE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY, IN A DISUSED HARBOR ZONE. THAT'S WHERE HE WAS ARRESTED LAST NIGHT.
AS HE HAD NO PAPERS ON HIM, HE TRIED TO FOOL US BY ASSUMING YOUR IDENTITY.
HE THOUGHT HE COULD GET AWAY WITH IT. IT MIGHT HAVE WORKED TOO, BECAUSE THE RESEMBLANCE IS UNCANNY.
POLICE
IT SEEMS EACH OF US HAS AT LEAST ONE DOUBLE IN THIS WORLD, AND NOW I KNOW WHERE MINE IS... I HOPE HE WON'T CAUSE ME ANY MORE TROUBLE.
DON'T WORRY!... ON A MURDER RAP, HE WON'T BE GETTING OUT OF PRISON SOON...
DOCK 4 BAY 12

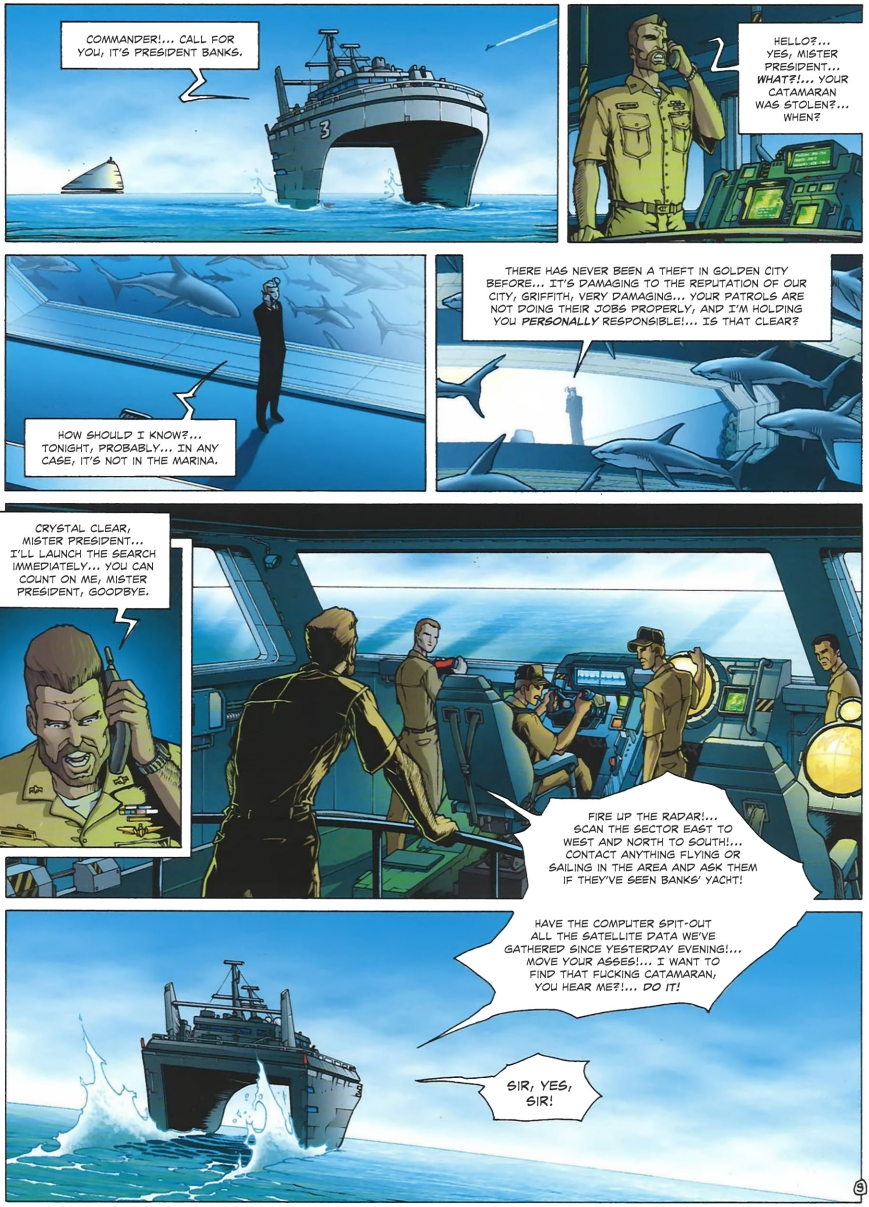


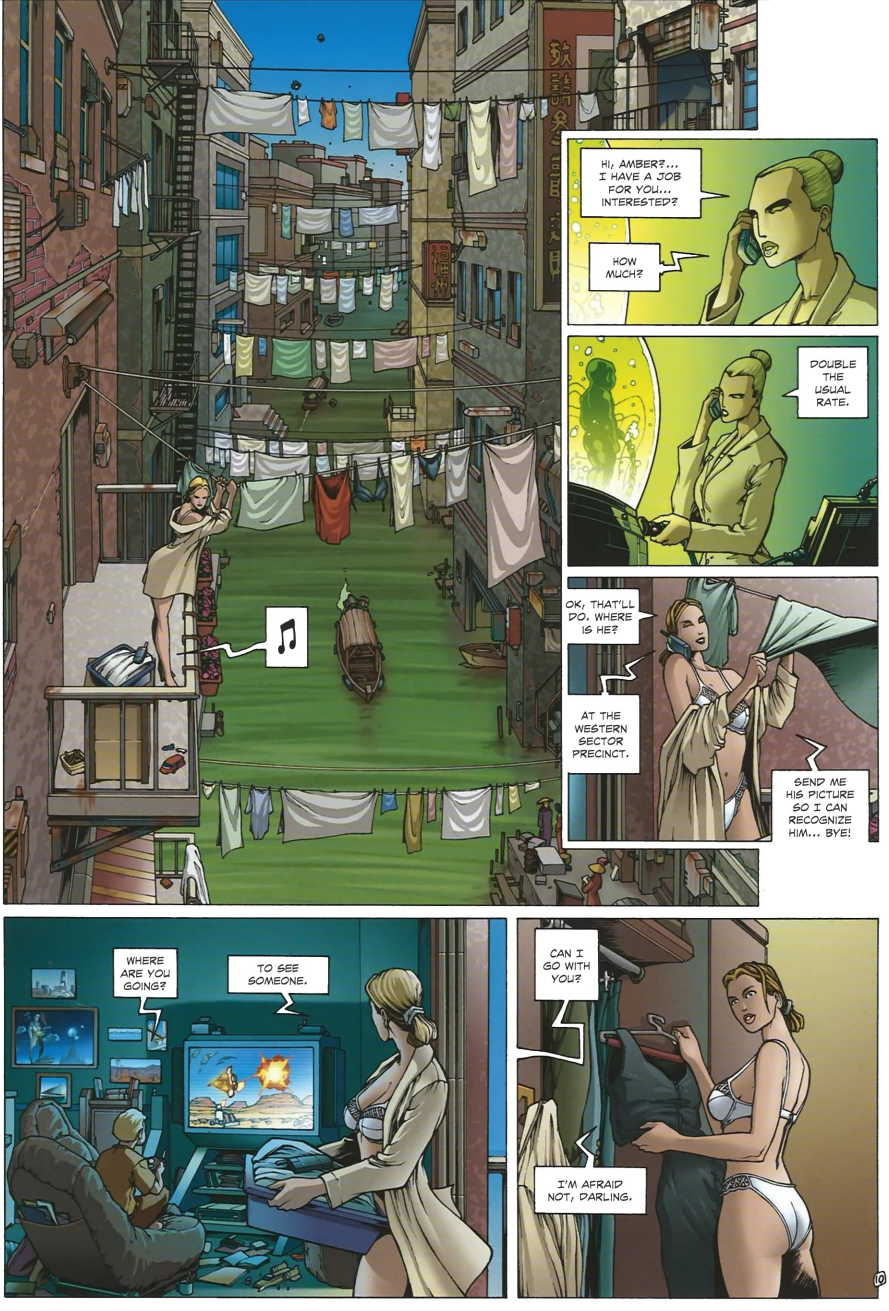

NO ONE HEARD ME COMING... THEY MUST ALL STILL BE ASLEEP.

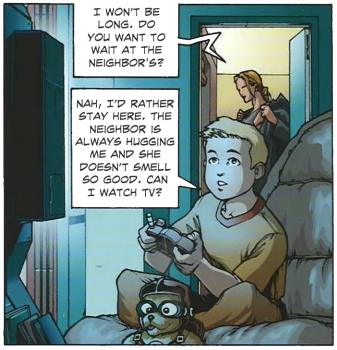
I'M GOING TO GIVE THESE LITTLE SHITS A WAKE-UP CALL!

AAAAAHHHH
?!
YOU HEAR THAT?
KUMIKO SCREAMED!
MMM... WHAT?
BAH... SHE JUST HAD ANOTHER NIGHTMARE.
?!
H... HE... HE'S GONNA KILL ME!
WHO?!
ME!
!!
?!
YOU BASTARD!... WHY DID YOU DO THIS?!... WHAT DO YOU WANT?
TO SEE MIFA... THE LITTLE BITCH SOLD ME OUT!... WHERE IS SHE?
WHO?
MIFA!!
DON'T KNOW HER... YOU?
NAH, NEVER HEARD OF HER.
DON'T PLAY DUMB!... IT PISSES ME OFF, AND WHEN I'M PISSED OFF IT AFFECTS MY AIM!
AAAAAHHHH
WE DUNNO WHERE SHE IS! SHE LEFT LAST NIGHT AND NEVER CAME BACK!
THEN I'LL WAIT... SHE'LL TURN UP EVENTUALLY, I'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME.

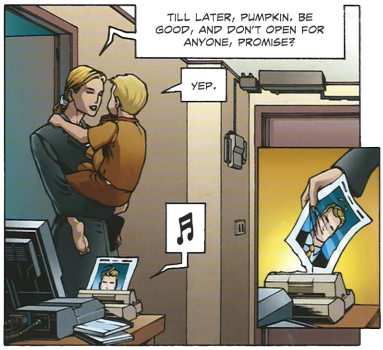

ARE YOU SURE IT'S REALLY HIM?
ABSOLUTELY!... WE SAW HIS FACE CLEARLY ON THE MONITOR...
DIDN'T WE, KATE?
YES!... THERE'S NO DOUBT... WHEN THE POLICE ASKED ME TO IDENTIFY HIM, I RECOGNIZED HIM INSTANTLY.
THAT'S UNBELIEVABLE!... BRASOV SAID HE KILLED HIM LAST NIGHT, HOW CAN HE BE ALIVE?
I DON'T KNOW... MAYBE BRASOV LIED... IN ANY CASE, THERE ARE NOW TWO BANKSES: ME AND HIM... THAT'S ONE TOO MANY, AND COULD FRUSTRATE OUR PLANS.
NO... WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR WHILE THE MAINLAND POLICE BELIEVE HE'S AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT... AND A MURDERER TO BOOT!
TO THEM, AND TO EVERYONE AS OF NOW, YOU ARE THE REAL BANKS... NO ONE WILL SUSPECT DECEPTION... YOU LOOK SO MUCH ALIKE THAT EVEN I, WHO HAS KNOWN YOU FOR A LONG TIME, CAN'T TELL YOU APART.
ALL THE SAME, I WOULD PREFER IT IF HE WERE DEAD... WHILE HE LIVES HE REPRESENTS A CONSTANT DANGER TO US... HE MUST BE ELIMINATED QUICKLY.
I'LL SEE TO IT... YOU TAKE CARE OF GRIFFITH. HE'S A TROUBLESOME WITNESS WHO KNOWS MUCH TOO MUCH... DID YOU DO AS I TOLD YOU?
YES, THE TRAP IS SET.
GOOD!... THEN DON'T WASTE TIME. RETURN TO YOUR OFFICE AND CALL HIM.

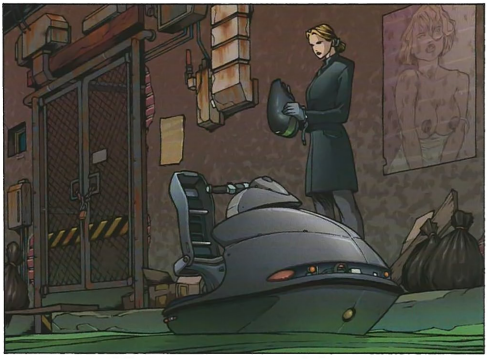

COMMANDER!... CALL FOR YOU, IT'S PRESIDENT BANKS.
HELLO?... YES, MISTER PRESIDENT... WHAT?!... YOUR CATAMARAN WAS STOLEN?... WHEN?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?... TONIGHT, PROBABLY... IN ANY CASE, IT'S NOT IN THE MARINA.
THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A THEFT IN GOLDEN CITY BEFORE... IT'S DAMAGING TO THE REPUTATION OF OUR CITY, GRIFFITH, VERY DAMAGING... YOUR PATROLS ARE NOT DOING THEIR JOBS PROPERLY; AND I'M HOLDING YOU PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE!... IS THAT CLEAR?
CRYSTAL CLEAR, MISTER PRESIDENT... I'LL LAUNCH THE SEARCH IMMEDIATELY... YOU CAN COUNT ON ME, MISTER PRESIDENT, GOODBYE.
FIRE UP THE RADAR!... SCAN THE SECTOR EAST TO WEST AND NORTH TO SOUTH!... CONTACT ANYTHING FLYING OR SAILING IN THE AREA AND ASK THEM IF THEY'VE SEEN BANKS' YACHT!
HAVE THE COMPUTER SPIT-OUT ALL THE SATELLITE DATA WE'VE GATHERED SINCE YESTERDAY EVENING!... MOVE YOUR ASSES!... I WANT TO FIND THAT FUCKING CATAMARAN, YOU HEAR ME?!... DO IT!
SIR, YES, SIR!

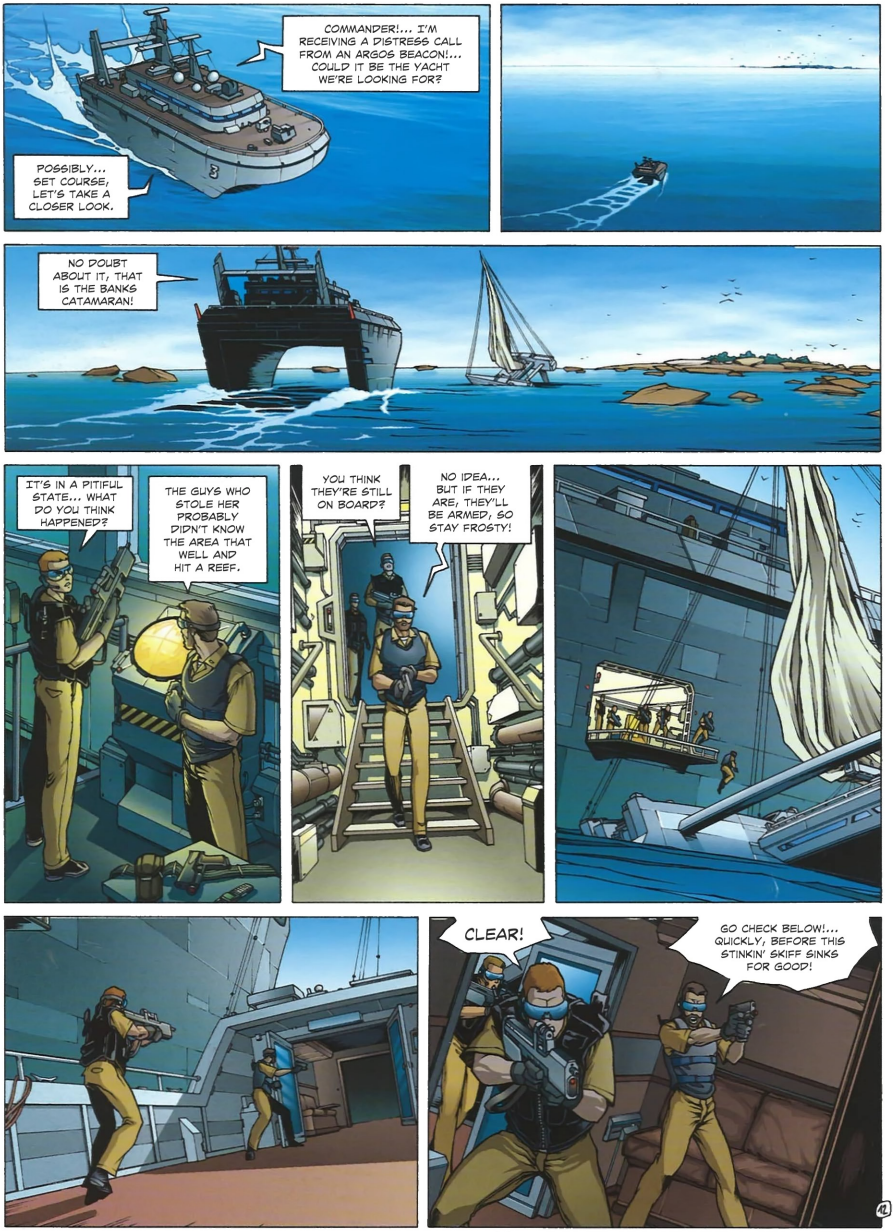

HI, AMBER?... I HAVE A JOB FOR YOU... INTERESTED?
HOW MUCH?
DOUBLE THE USUAL RATE.
OK, THAT'LL DO. WHERE IS HE?
AT THE WESTERN SECTOR PRECINCT.
SEND ME HIS PICTURE SO I CAN RECOGNIZE HIM... BYE!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO SEE SOMEONE.
CAN I GO WITH YOU?
I'M AFRAID NOT, DARLING.

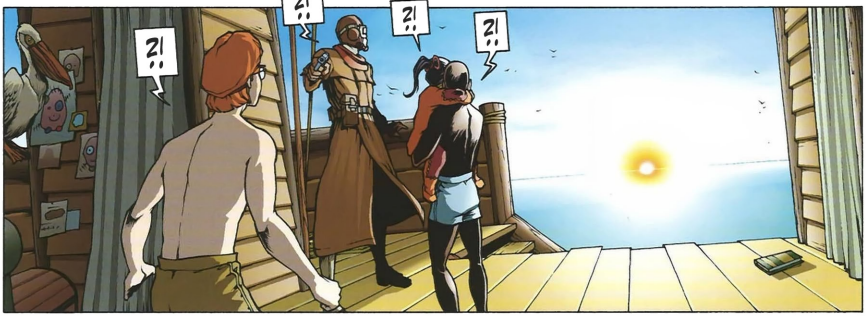

I WON'T BE LONG. DO YOU WANT TO WAIT AT THE NEIGHBOR'S?
NAH, I'D RATHER STAY HERE. THE NEIGHBOR IS ALWAYS HUGGING ME AND SHE DOESN'T SMELL SO GOOD. CAN I WATCH TV?

YES, BUT NO AMERICAN MOVIES. THEY'RE MUCH TOO VIOLENT... JUST CARTOONS, OK?


TILL LATER, PUMPKIN. BE GOOD, AND DON'T OPEN FOR ANYONE, PROMISE?
YEP.




COMMANDER!... I'M RECEIVING A DISTRESS CALL FROM AN ARGOS BEACON!... COULD IT BE THE YACHT WE'RE LOOKING FOR?
POSSIBLY... SET COURSE, LET'S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK.
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, THAT IS THE BANKS CATAMARAN!
IT'S IN A PITIFUL STATE... WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED?
THE GUYS WHO STOLE HER PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW THE AREA THAT WELL AND HIT A REEF.
YOU THINK THEY'RE STILL ON BOARD?
NO IDEA... BUT IF THEY ARE, THEY'LL BE ARMED, SO STAY FROSTY!
CLEAR!
GO CHECK BELOW!... QUICKLY, BEFORE THIS STINKIN' SKIFF SINKS FOR GOOD!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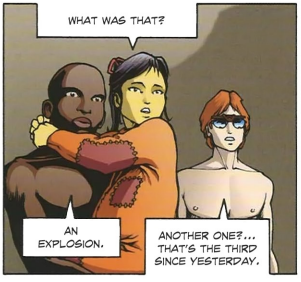
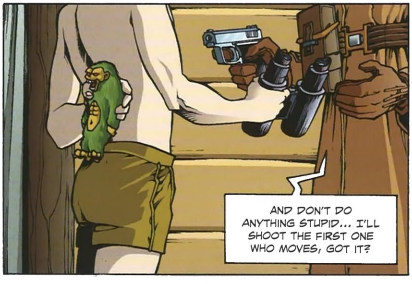
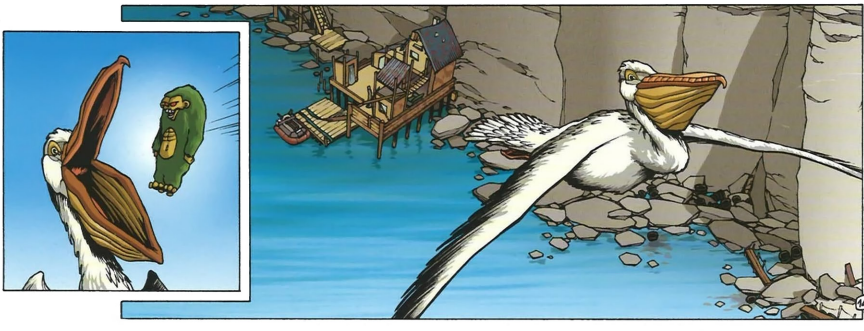
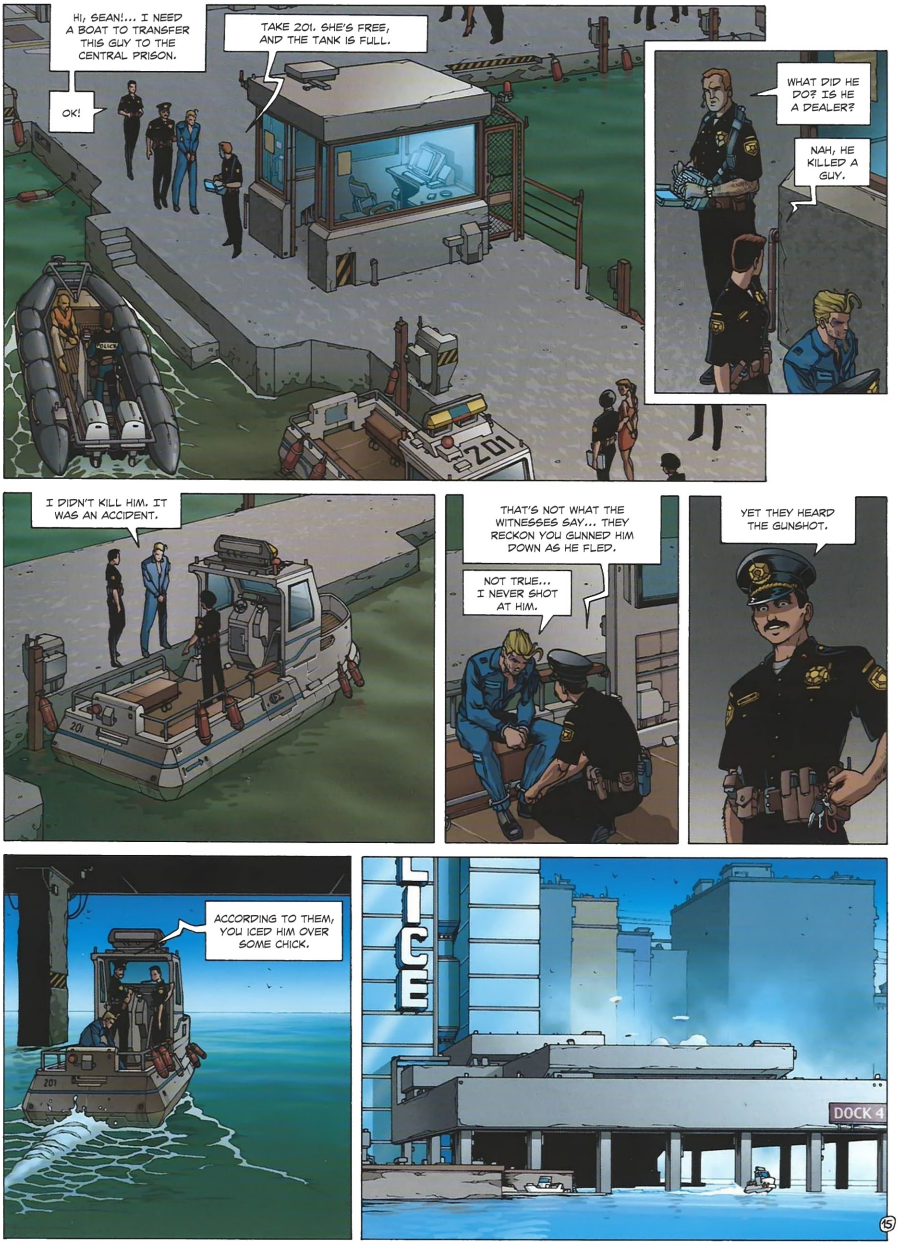

WHAT WAS THAT?
AN EXPLOSION.
ANOTHER ONE?... THAT'S THE THIRD SINCE YESTERDAY.

DAMN HAZE!... I CAN'T SEE A THING, PASS ME YOUR BINOCULARS.


AND DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID... I'LL SHOOT THE FIRST ONE WHO MOVES, GOT IT?

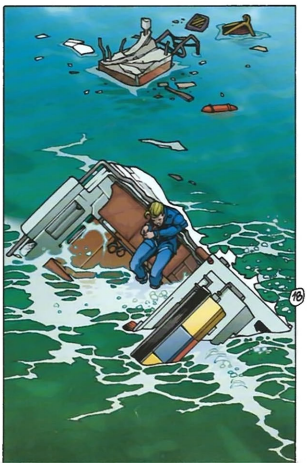
HEY!... IT'S THE GOLDEN CITY POLICE CRUISER THAT BLEW UP!



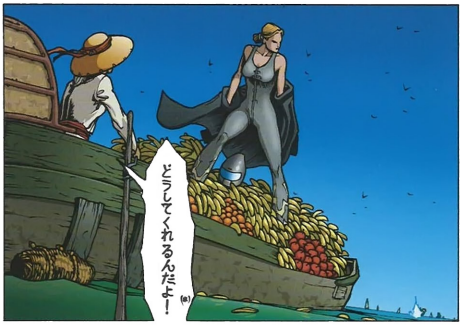

HI, SEAN!... I NEED A BOAT TO TRANSFER THIS GUY TO THE CENTRAL PRISON.
OK!
TAKE 201. SHE'S FREE, AND THE TANK IS FULL.
201
WHAT DID HE DO? IS HE A DEALER?
NAH, HE KILLED A GUY.
I DIDN'T KILL HIM. IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.
201
THAT'S NOT WHAT THE WITNESSES SAY... THEY RECKON YOU GUNNED HIM DOWN AS HE FLED.
NOT TRUE... I NEVER SHOT AT HIM.
YET THEY HEARD THE GUNSHOT.
ACCORDING TO THEM, YOU ICED HIM OVER SOME CHICK.
201
ICE
DOCK 4

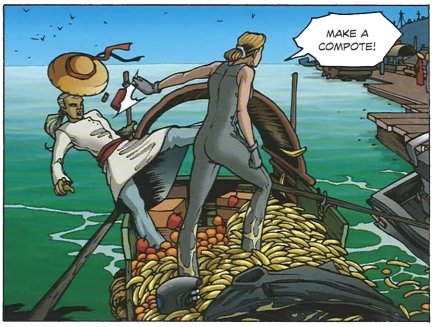
THAT'S HIM!
!!

MARIA II
2!
17



(*)"FILTHY BITCH!... THAT FRUIT WAS FRESH!... I WOULD HAVE GOT A GOOD PRICE AT THE MARKET!"

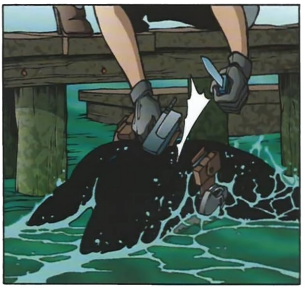


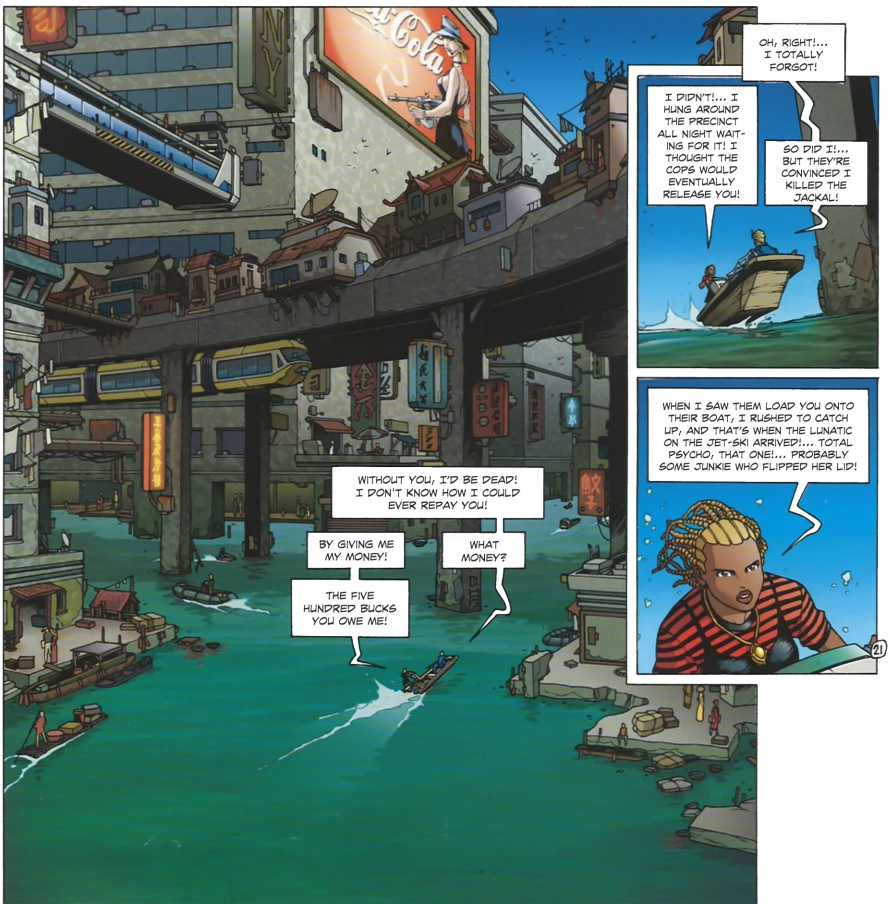


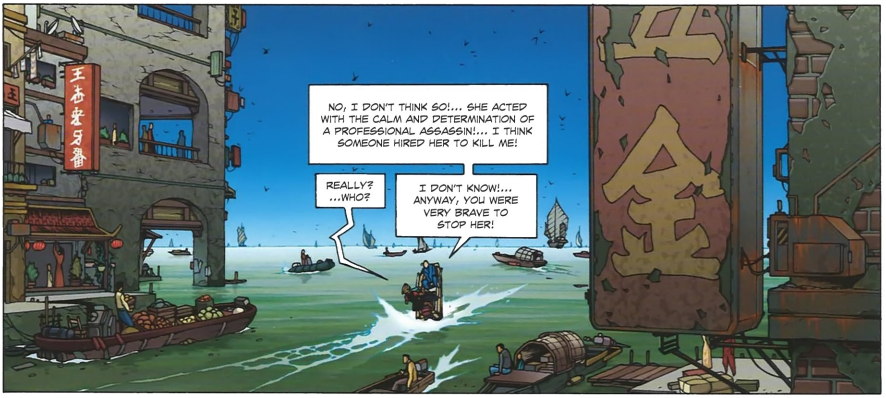
(*)"WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?"

YOU MISSED HIM, DUMMY!... THERE GOES THE BOUNTY!

UNLESS ...




OH, RIGHT!... I TOTALLY FORGOT!
I DIDN'T!... I HUNG AROUND THE PRECINCT ALL NIGHT WAITING FOR IT! I THOUGHT THE COPS WOULD EVENTUALLY RELEASE YOU!
SO DID I!... BUT THEY'RE CONVINCED I KILLED THE JACKAL!
WHEN I SAW THEM LOAD YOU ONTO THEIR BOAT, I RUSHED TO CATCH UP, AND THAT'S WHEN THE LUNATIC ON THE JET-SKI ARRIVED!... TOTAL PSYCHO, THAT ONE!... PROBABLY SOME JUNKIE WHO FLIPPED HER LID!
WITHOUT YOU, I'D BE DEAD! I DON'T KNOW HOW I COULD EVER REPAY YOU!
BY GIVING ME MY MONEY!
WHAT MONEY?
THE FIVE HUNDRED BUCKS YOU OWE ME!

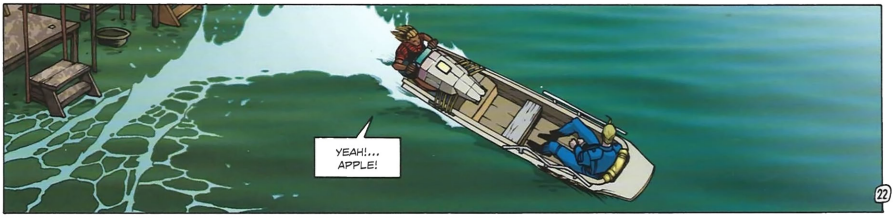

NO, I DON'T THINK SO!... SHE ACTED WITH THE CALM AND DETERMINATION OF A PROFESSIONAL ASSASSIN!... I THINK SOMEONE HIRED HER TO KILL ME!
REALLY? ...WHO?
I DON'T KNOW!... ANYWAY, YOU WERE VERY BRAVE TO STOP HER!

OH, YOU KNOW, I ONLY DID IT TO GET MY FIVE HUNDRED BUCKS!
YOU'D RISK THAT MUCH FOR A SUM SO MODEST?

MODEST TO YOU, BUT NOT TO ME!... WITH THAT, I COULD BUY KUMIKO A NEW DRESS AND SHOES! SHE'S NEVER HAD ANY BEFORE, AND IT'S HER BIRTHDAY TOMORROW!

I'LL DROP YOU OFF HERE... GIVE ME THE MONEY, I'M GOING HOME TO BED. I DIDN'T GET A WINK OF SLEEP AND I'M EXHAUSTED.
SORRY, BUT I'VE GOT NOTHING ON ME. THE POLICE EMPTIED MY POCKETS AFTER MY ARREST.

SHIT, ARE YOU SERIOUS? TELL ME I DIDN'T DO ALL THIS FOR NOTHING!
NO!... I'LL WITHDRAW THE MONEY FROM A BANK AS SOON AS I'M OUT OF THESE CUFFS, I SWEAR... DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO CAN OPEN THEM?

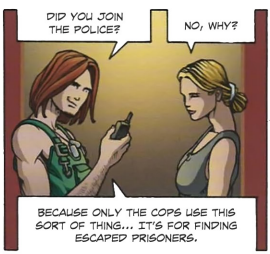

YEAH!... APPLE!

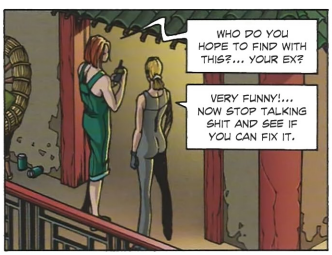
STILL WORKING HARD, I SEE!
MMM...?

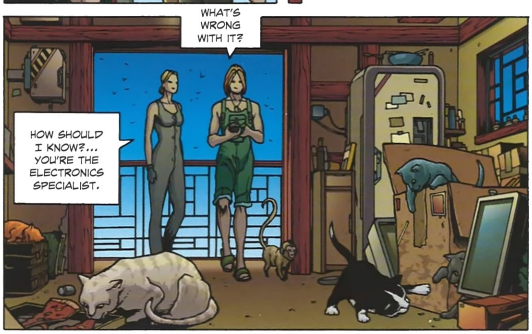
AMBER!
GET UP, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.

ABOUT WHAT?... YOU'VE FINALLY REALIZED I'M THE MAN OF YOUR DREAMS AND YOU'VE COME TO PROPOSE?...

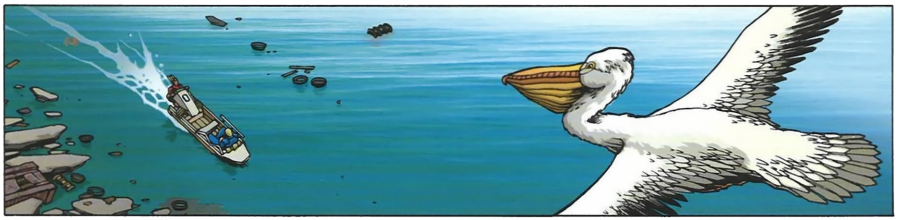
NO?... PITY... SO WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
THIS.


DID YOU JOIN THE POLICE?
NO, WHY?
BECAUSE ONLY THE COPS USE THIS SORT OF THING... IT'S FOR FINDING ESCAPED PRISONERS.


WHO DO YOU HOPE TO FIND WITH THIS?... YOUR EX?
VERY FUNNY!... NOW STOP TALKING SHIT AND SEE IF YOU CAN FIX IT.


WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?... YOU'RE THE ELECTRONICS SPECIALIST.

ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT IT DOESN'T WORK... IT FELL INTO THE SEA, MAYBE THAT'S WHY?...
POSSIBLY... LET'S SEE.



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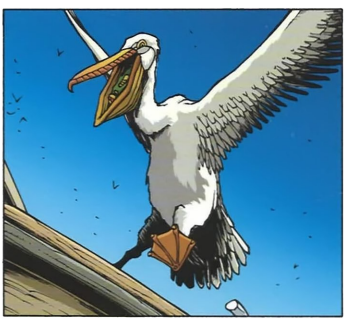
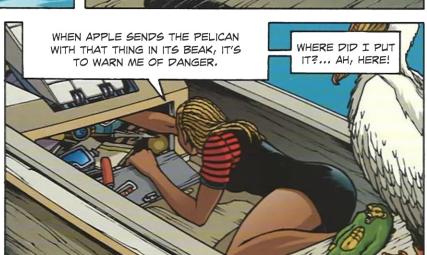


WHY ARE YOU STOPPING?
THERE'S A PROBLEM.
WHAT PROBLEM?


WHEN APPLE SENDS THE PELICAN WITH THAT THING IN ITS BEAK, IT'S TO WARN ME OF DANGER.
WHERE DID I PUT IT?... AH, HERE!

WELL?
NOTHING ...ALL SEEMS CALM.
CAN YOU SEE YOUR FRIENDS?
NO... WE'RE TOO FAR AWAY.

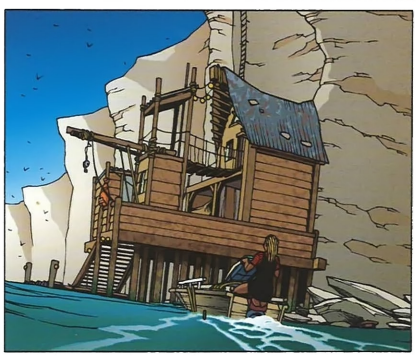
WEIRD!... SOMETHING WOULD HAVE TO BE WRONG FOR APPLE TO WARN ME... BUT WHAT?
WE'LL SOON FIND OUT... DO YOU HAVE A SNORKEL?

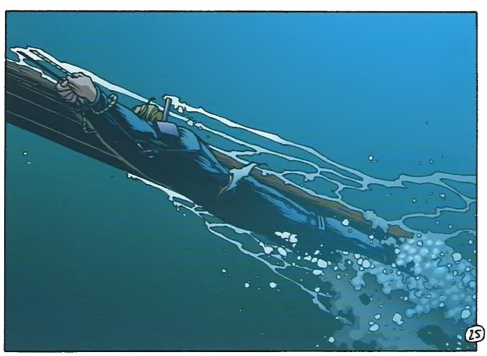
WHEN'S MIFA COMIN' BACK?

WHY DID YOU HAVE TO HANG HER LIKE THAT?... YOU'RE A REAL DICKBAG!
SILENCE!... LISTEN!... I CAN HEAR AN ENGINE!

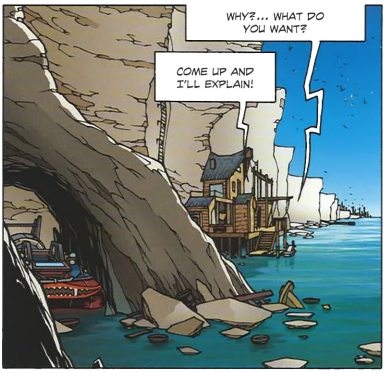
HERE SHE COMES!... I WAS SMART TO HIDE MY BOAT, THE LITTLE BITCH DOESN'T SUSPECT A THING!... SHE'S RIDING HEAD-LONG INTO THE LION'S DEN!

NOW, SHUT UP!... AND REMEMBER, THE FIRST ONE TO MOVE OR TRY TO WARN HER GETS SHOT!...

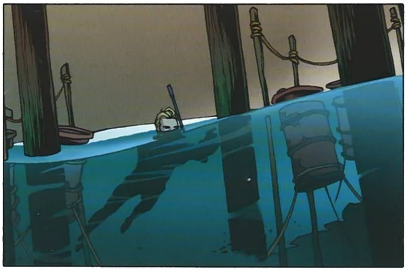




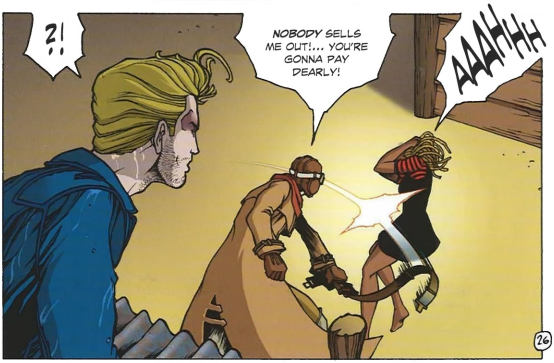
AHOY!
WHERE WERE YOU? I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU SINCE LAST NIGHT!
?!


WHY?... WHAT DO YOU WANT?
COME UP AND I'LL EXPLAIN!

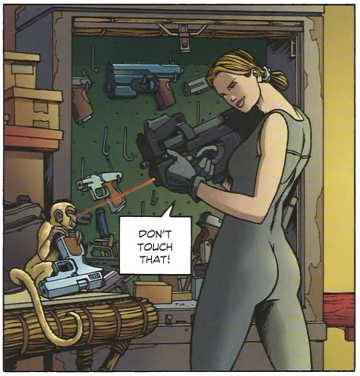
COME, I SAID!... HURRY OR I'LL CUT THE ROPE!

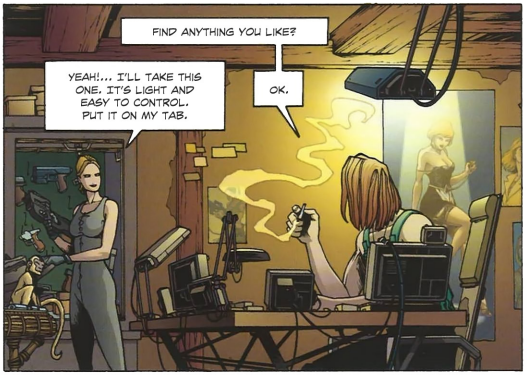


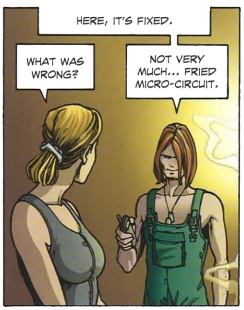
LITTLE BITCH...


?!
NOBODY SELLS ME OUT!... YOU'RE GONNA PAY DEARLY!
AAAHHH

I HOPE THIS SERVES AS A LESSON TO YOU...
AAAHHHH
?!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!... AS DO THE COPS!... THEY ACCUSED ME OF KILLING YOU, SO WE'RE GOING TO GO SEE THEM TOGETHER AND TELL THEM THE TRUTH!...
BUT FIRST, I WANT TO KNOW WHERE MY WIFE IS!... TELL ME!
I... I... SOLD HER.
TO WHO?!
TO ORGAN TRAFFICKERS.
BASTARD!
SERVES HIM RIGHT!... NOW HANG HIM BY HIS FEET, LIKE HE DID TO ME!... THEN I'LL CUT THE ROPE SO HE BANGS HIS HEAD ON THE DOCK!


DON'T TOUCH THAT!


FIND ANYTHING YOU LIKE?
YEAH!... I'LL TAKE THIS ONE. IT'S LIGHT AND EASY TO CONTROL. PUT IT ON MY TAB.
OK.

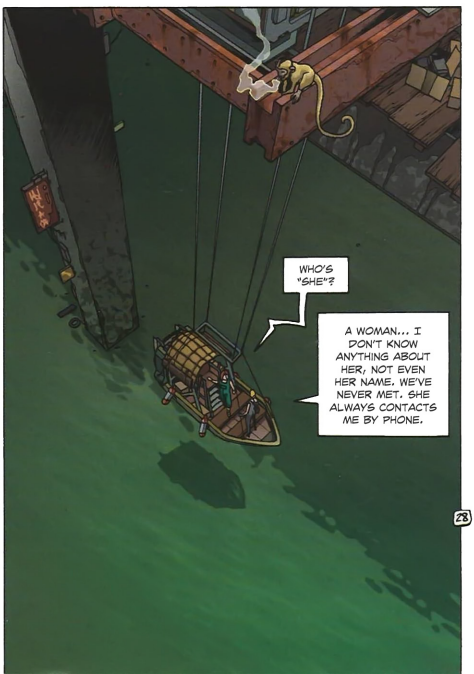

HERE, IT'S FIXED.
WHAT WAS WRONG?
NOT VERY MUCH... FRIED MICRO-CIRCUIT.

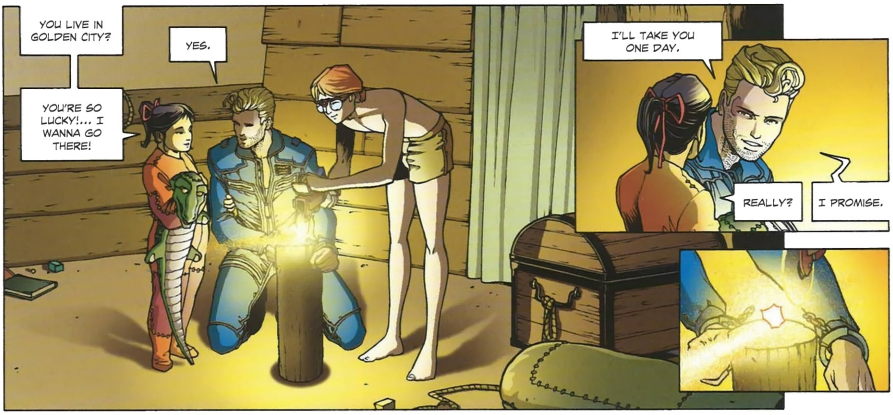
HOW DO I TELL WHICH PART OF THE CITY THE GUY I'M LOOKING FOR IS HIDING IN?
PRESS THE RED BUTTON AND IT'LL DISPLAY IT ON THE SCREEN.

THE HANDCUFFS THE COPS USE CONTAIN INTEGRATED CHIPS THAT EMIT A SIGNAL THAT ALLOWS THE RECEIVER TO LOCATE A FUGITIVE WITHIN A FIFTY MILE RADIUS.

THERE! AS YOU CAN SEE, THE DUDE YOU'RE HUNTING IS CURRENTLY IN THE OLD HARBOR ZONE.

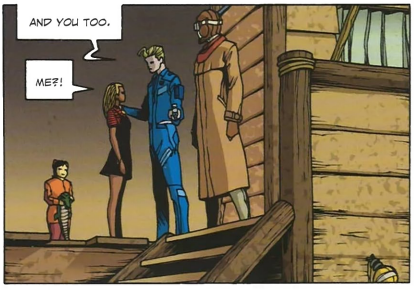
THAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN AND MY JET-SKI'S TOAST!... CAN YOU TAKE ME? I'VE GOT TO FIND THIS GUY!
WHY?
TO KILL HIM! SHE WANTS HIM DEAD!

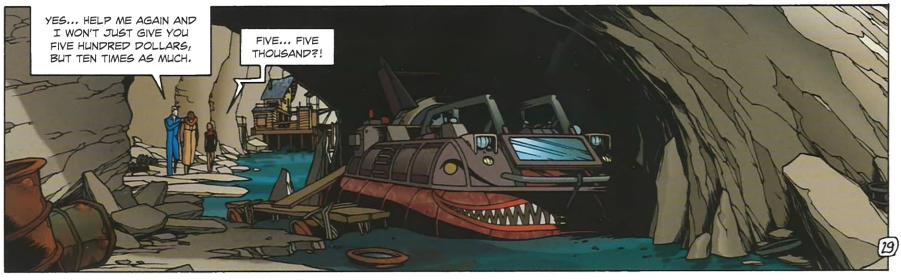

WHO'S "SHE"?
A WOMAN... I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HER, NOT EVEN HER NAME. WE'VE NEVER MET. SHE ALWAYS CONTACTS ME BY PHONE.

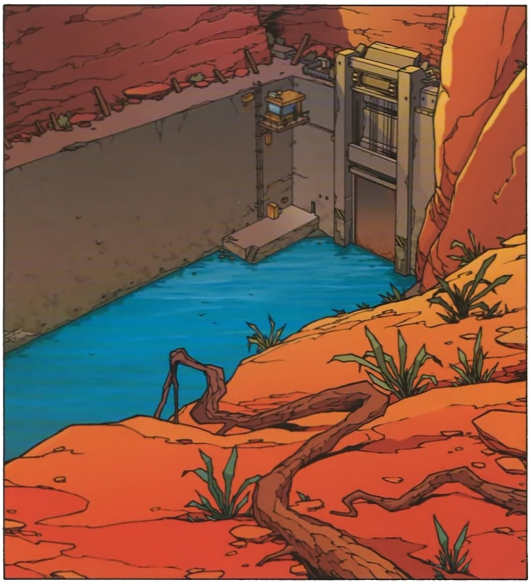

YOU LIVE IN GOLDEN CITY?
YES.
YOU'RE SO LUCKY!... I WANNA GO THERE!
I'LL TAKE YOU ONE DAY.
REALLY?
I PROMISE.

DONE!... BUT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE BRACELETS. THEY'RE MADE OF TITANIUM, AND I CAN'T CUT THEM WITH THIS OLD THING. THE DISC IS TOO WORN.
I'LL GET BY LIKE THIS. THANK YOU.

I WANT TO GO TO THE ORGAN TRAFFICKERS. WHERE ARE THEY?
NOT FAR FROM HERE, IN AN OLD SUBMARINE BASE.
GOOD... GET UP! I'M GOING TO NEED YOU.

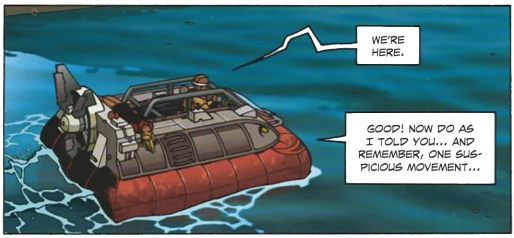

AND YOU TOO.
ME?!


YES... HELP ME AGAIN AND I WON'T JUST GIVE YOU FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS, BUT TEN TIMES AS MUCH.
FIVE... FIVE THOUSAND?!



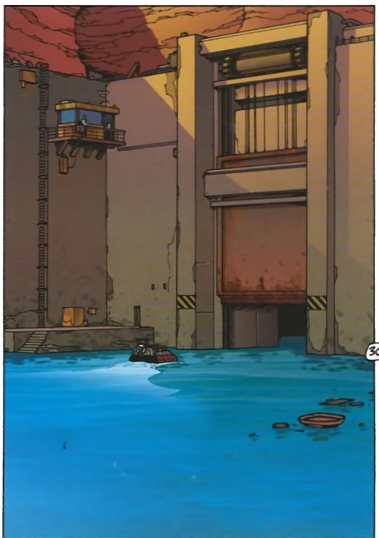
WE HAVE A VISITOR.
WHO IS IT?

THE JACKAL.


WE'RE HERE.
GOOD! NOW DO AS I TOLD YOU... AND REMEMBER, ONE SUSPICIOUS MOVEMENT...

...AND I PULL THE TRIGGER.

HEY!... I'VE BROUGHT YOU A PACKAGE!
OK!... I'LL OPEN UP!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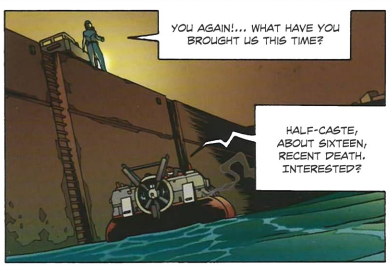
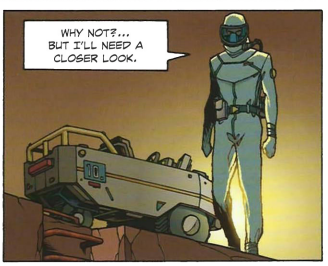

YOU AGAIN!... WHAT HAVE YOU BROUGHT US THIS TIME?
HALF-CASTE, ABOUT SIXTEEN, RECENT DEATH. INTERESTED?


WHY NOT?... BUT I'LL NEED A CLOSER LOOK.

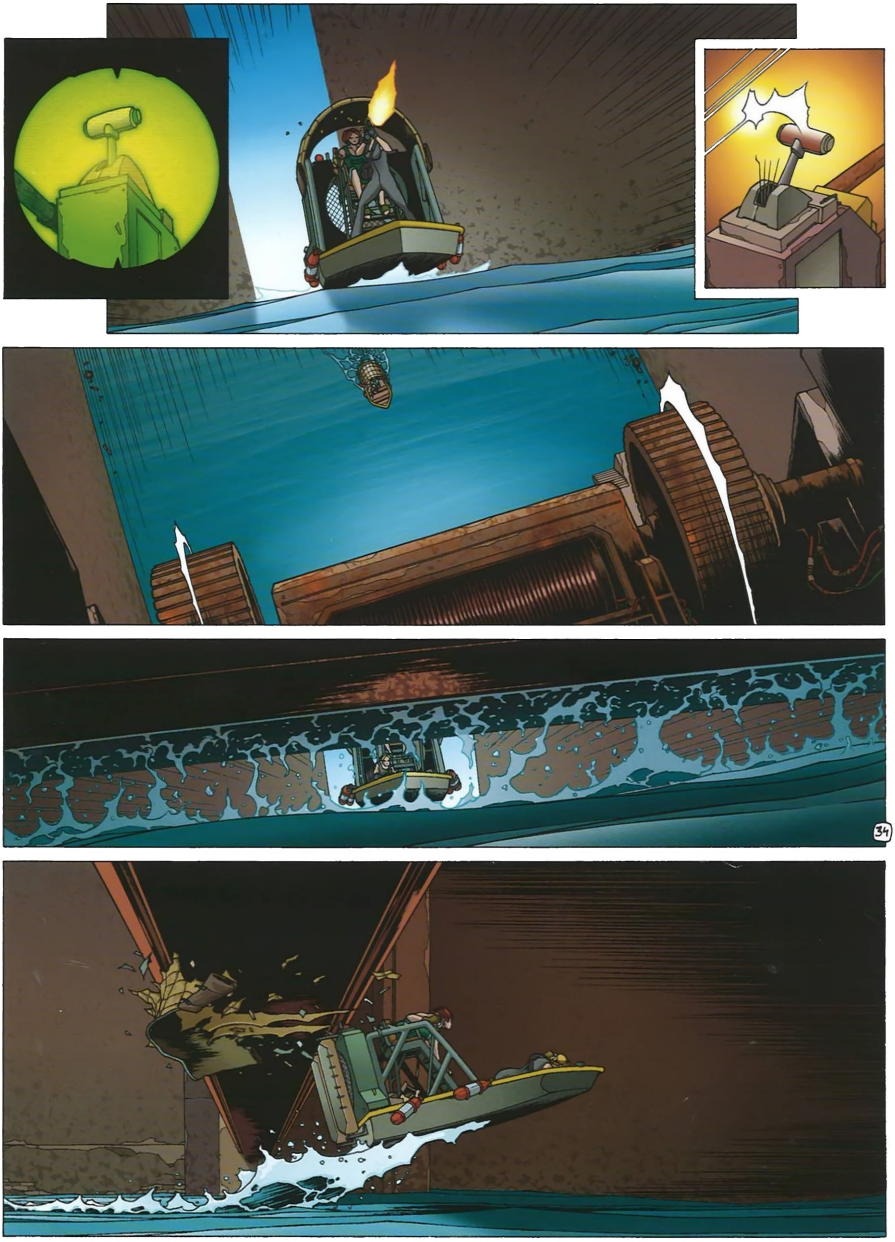
WHERE DID YOU FIND HER? SAME PLACE AS THE BLONDE FROM YESTERDAY?

DOES EVERYONE WHO WORKS ON THIS BASE WEAR THIS SORT OF GETUP?
YES... IT'S MANDATORY TO AVOID CONTAMINATION AND TO PRESERVE THE ORGANS IN PERFECT STERILE CONDITIONS.

I'LL PUT IT ON. IT WILL KEEP ANYONE FROM NOTICING ME, OR AT LEAST THAT'S THE HOPE.
I'LL LEAVE THE JACKAL WITH YOU UNTIL I GET BACK.
OKAY!

HE'S IN THERE!
YOU'RE SURE?
YEAH!... THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS ON THE SCREEN!
IF HE'S TAKING REFUGE IN THERE, HE MUST HAVE FRIENDS INSIDE!... WE WON'T STAND A CHANCE!... IT WOULD BE BETTER TO TURN BACK AND NOT PRESS ON!
NO!... THERE'S TOO MUCH MONEY AT STAKE!
HOW MUCH?
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
C'MON, DON'T BE SO SECRETIVE!... WHAT ARE YOU GETTING FOR KILLING THIS DUDE?
A LOT!... I'LL BE ABLE TO PAY OFF MY DEBTS AND FINALLY TAKE MY KID ON VACATION. HE'LL BE SO HAPPY.
I'VE NEVER SEEN THESE DIPSHITS BEFORE!... WHAT THE FUCK ARE THEY DOING HERE?
COULD BE JOURNALISTS. YOU KNOW, LIKE THE ONE'S LAST YEAR WHO WANTED TO INVESTIGATE THE HAPPENINGS ON THE BASE.
WE HAD TO FEED THEM TO THE SHARKS, REMEMBER?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, LET'S GIVE THEM A WELCOME...
?!
?!

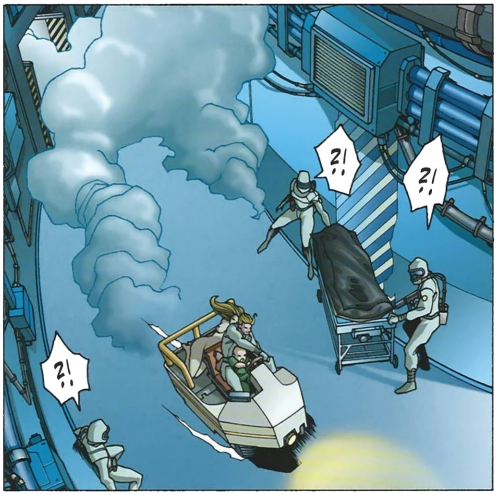
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
TURNING BACK!... I'M GOING HOME!... I'M IN NO HURRY TO GET SHOT, ESPECIALLY NOT FOR WHAT YOU'RE PAYING ME!
YOU PRICK!... YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION TO BLACKMAIL ME?!... YOU WANT YOUR SHARE OF THE BOUNTY, IS THAT IT?!... HOW MUCH?
WE SPLIT IT!... FIFTY, FIFTY!
NO WAY!... YOU CAN HAVE TWENTY PERCENT, AND THAT'S IT!... NOW, HIT IT!
STOP NEAR THE STAIRS, I'LL OPEN THE DOOR!
STOP, I SAID!
I CAN'T!... THE THROTTLE IS JAMMED!



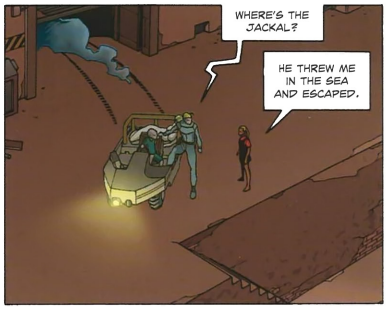
OKAY, IT'S WORKING AGAIN!
WHAT?
THE THROTTLE!... HITTING THE DOOR UNJAMMED IT!
?!
SHIT!... THAT'S THE LUNATIC FROM EARLIER!... HOW DID SHE FIND US?
NOW TO LOCATE THE TARGET!
ACCORDING TO THE SCREEN, HE'S SOMEWHERE THIS WAY!

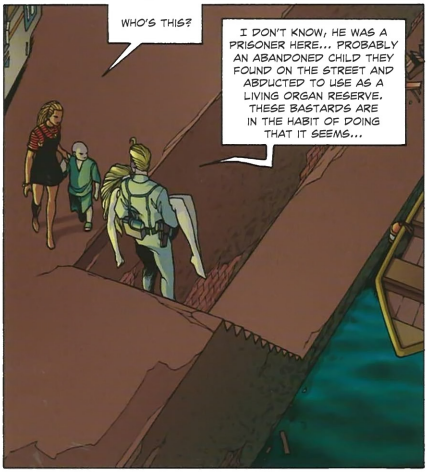
?!
JESSICA!
?!

DROP THE KID!
NOW, STEP AWAY FROM HIM!
!!

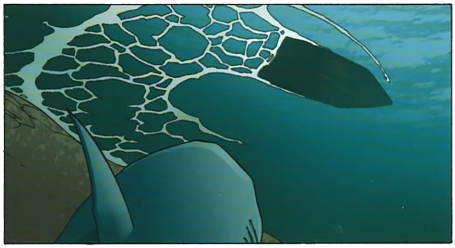

?!
?!
?!

HEY!... OVER HERE!

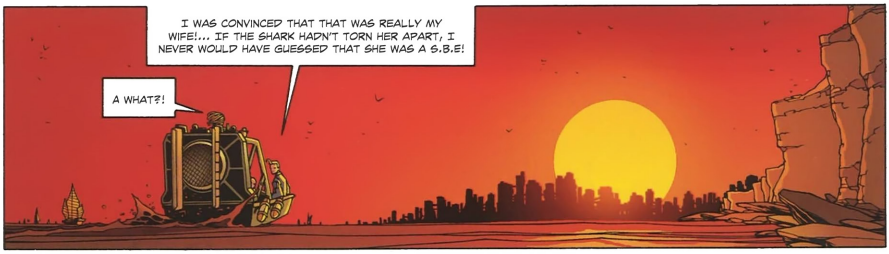

WHERE'S THE JACKAL?
HE THREW ME IN THE SEA AND ESCAPED.

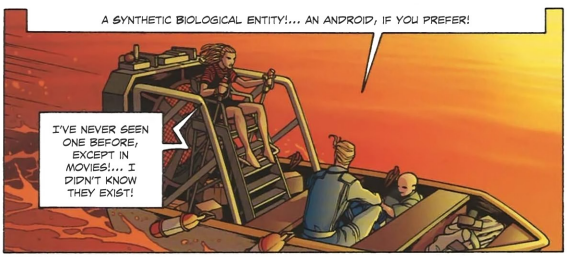

WHO'S THIS?
I DON'T KNOW, HE WAS A PRISONER HERE... PROBABLY AN ABANDONED CHILD THEY FOUND ON THE STREET AND ABDUCTED TO USE AS A LIVING ORGAN RESERVE. THESE BASTARDS ARE IN THE HABIT OF DOING THAT IT SEEMS...

WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THEY SHOW UP!



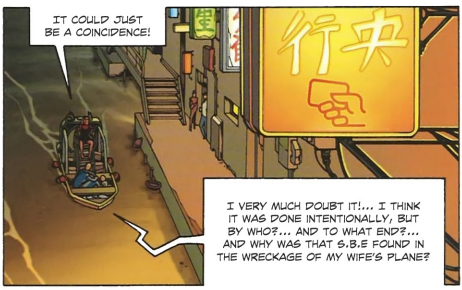
!!
JESSIC...?!
THERE!... DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE!


I WAS CONVINCED THAT THAT WAS REALLY MY WIFE!... IF THE SHARK HADN'T TORN HER APART, I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED THAT SHE WAS A S.B.E!
A WHAT?!

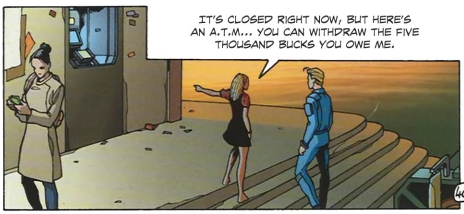

A SYNTHETIC BIOLOGICAL ENTITY!... AN ANDROID, IF YOU PREFER!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE BEFORE, EXCEPT IN MOVIES!... I DIDN'T KNOW THEY EXIST!

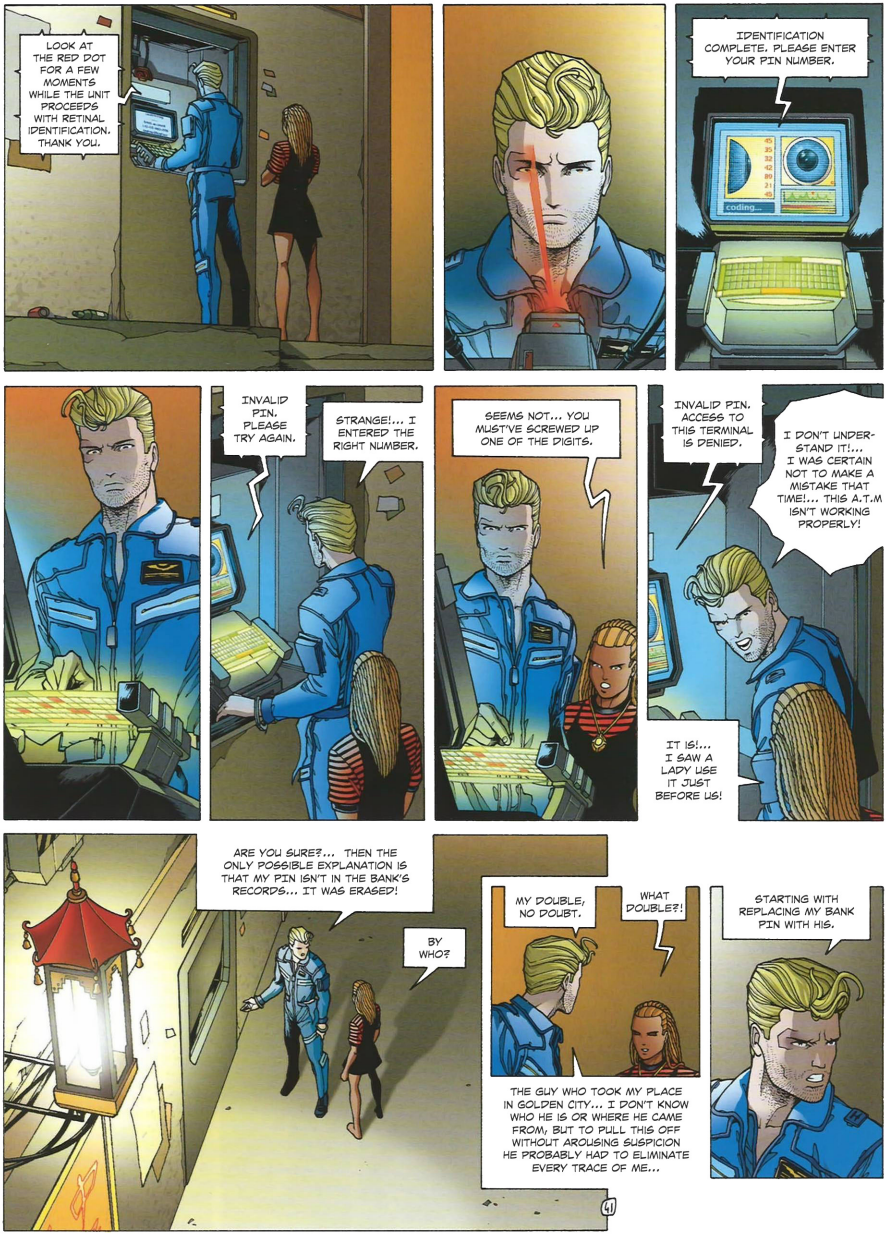
OFFICIALLY, THEY DON'T! NOT SINCE EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD RATIFIED THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF 2068 MAKING IT ILLEGAL TO MANUFACTURE THEM! BUT NOT EVERYONE IS RESPECTING THAT TREATY, CLEARLY!

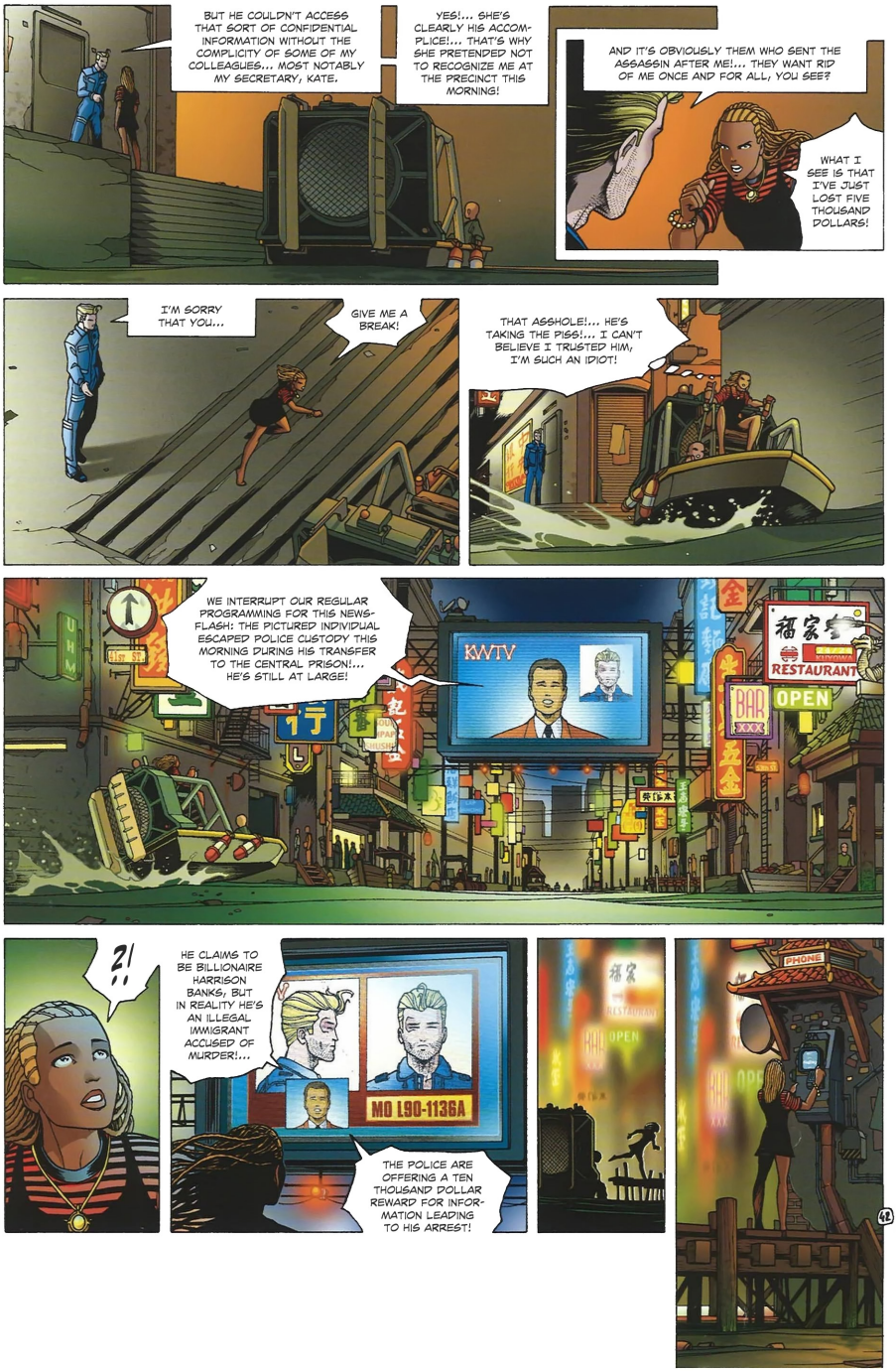
MOTEL
THEN THERE COULD BE PLENTY OF OTHER ANDROIDS LIVING AMONG US WITHOUT ANYONE KNOWING?
IT'S POSSIBLE, YES!... IN ANY CASE, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THAT ONE LOOKED SO MUCH LIKE JESSICA!... THEY COULD HAVE BEEN TWINS!

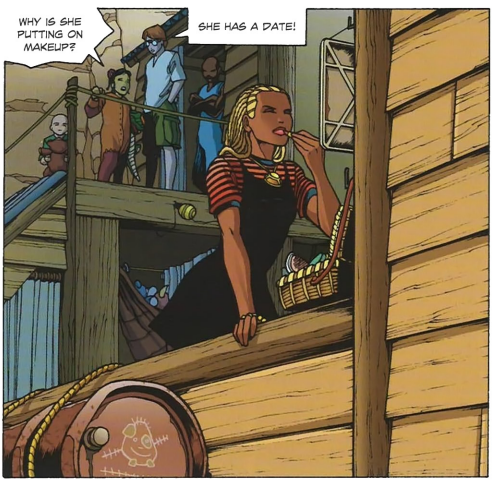

IT COULD JUST BE A COINCIDENCE!
I VERY MUCH DOUBT IT!... I THINK IT WAS DONE INTENTIONALLY. BUT BY WHO?... AND TO WHAT END?... AND WHY WAS THAT S.B.E FOUND IN THE WRECKAGE OF MY WIFE'S PLANE?

I DON'T KNOW AND I DON'T CARE!... ALL I WANT IS MY MONEY, SO OFF TO THE BANK WITH YOU!


IT'S CLOSED RIGHT NOW, BUT HERE'S AN A.T.M... YOU CAN WITHDRAW THE FIVE THOUSAND BUCKS YOU OWE ME.


LOOK AT THE RED DOT FOR A FEW MOMENTS WHILE THE UNIT PROCEEDS WITH RETINAL IDENTIFICATION. THANK YOU.
IDENTIFICATION COMPLETE. PLEASE ENTER YOUR PIN NUMBER.
coding...
INVALID PIN. PLEASE TRY AGAIN.
STRANGE!... I ENTERED THE RIGHT NUMBER.
SEEMS NOT... YOU MUST'VE SCREWED UP ONE OF THE DIGITS.
INVALID PIN. ACCESS TO THIS TERMINAL IS DENIED.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT!... I WAS CERTAIN NOT TO MAKE A MISTAKE THAT TIME!... THIS A.T.M ISN'T WORKING PROPERLY!
IT IS!... I SAW A LADY USE IT JUST BEFORE US!
ARE YOU SURE?... THEN THE ONLY POSSIBLE EXPLANATION IS THAT MY PIN ISN'T IN THE BANK'S RECORDS... IT WAS ERASED!
BY WHO?
MY DOUBLE, NO DOUBT.
WHAT DOUBLE?!
THE GUY WHO TOOK MY PLACE IN GOLDEN CITY... I DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS OR WHERE HE CAME FROM, BUT TO PULL THIS OFF WITHOUT AROUSING SUSPICION HE PROBABLY HAD TO ELIMINATE EVERY TRACE OF ME...
STARTING WITH REPLACING MY BANK PIN WITH HIS.

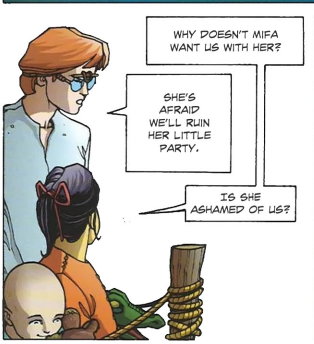

BUT HE COULDN'T ACCESS THAT SORT OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION WITHOUT THE COMPLICITY OF SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES... MOST NOTABLY MY SECRETARY, KATE.
YES!... SHE'S CLEARLY HIS ACCOMPLICE!... THAT'S WHY SHE PRETENDED NOT TO RECOGNIZE ME AT THE PRECINCT THIS MORNING!
AND IT'S OBVIOUSLY THEM WHO SENT THE ASSASSIN AFTER ME!... THEY WANT RID OF ME ONCE AND FOR ALL, YOU SEE?
WHAT I SEE IS THAT I'VE JUST LOST FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS!
I'M SORRY THAT YOU...
GIVE ME A BREAK!
THAT ASSHOLE!... HE'S TAKING THE PISS!... I CAN'T BELIEVE I TRUSTED HIM, I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!
WE INTERRUPT OUR REGULAR PROGRAMMING FOR THIS NEWSFLASH: THE PICTURED INDIVIDUAL ESCAPED POLICE CUSTODY THIS MORNING DURING HIS TRANSFER TO THE CENTRAL PRISON!... HE'S STILL AT LARGE!
KWTV
RESTAURANT
BAR
OPEN
?!
HE CLAIMS TO BE BILLIONAIRE HARRISON BANKS, BUT IN REALITY HE'S AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT ACCUSED OF MURDER!...
MO L90-1136A
THE POLICE ARE OFFERING A TEN THOUSAND DOLLAR REWARD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO HIS ARREST!
PHONE


WHY IS SHE PUTTING ON MAKEUP?
SHE HAS A DATE!

WITH WHO?
WITH THE FAT MAN ON THE BOAT... SEE HIM?

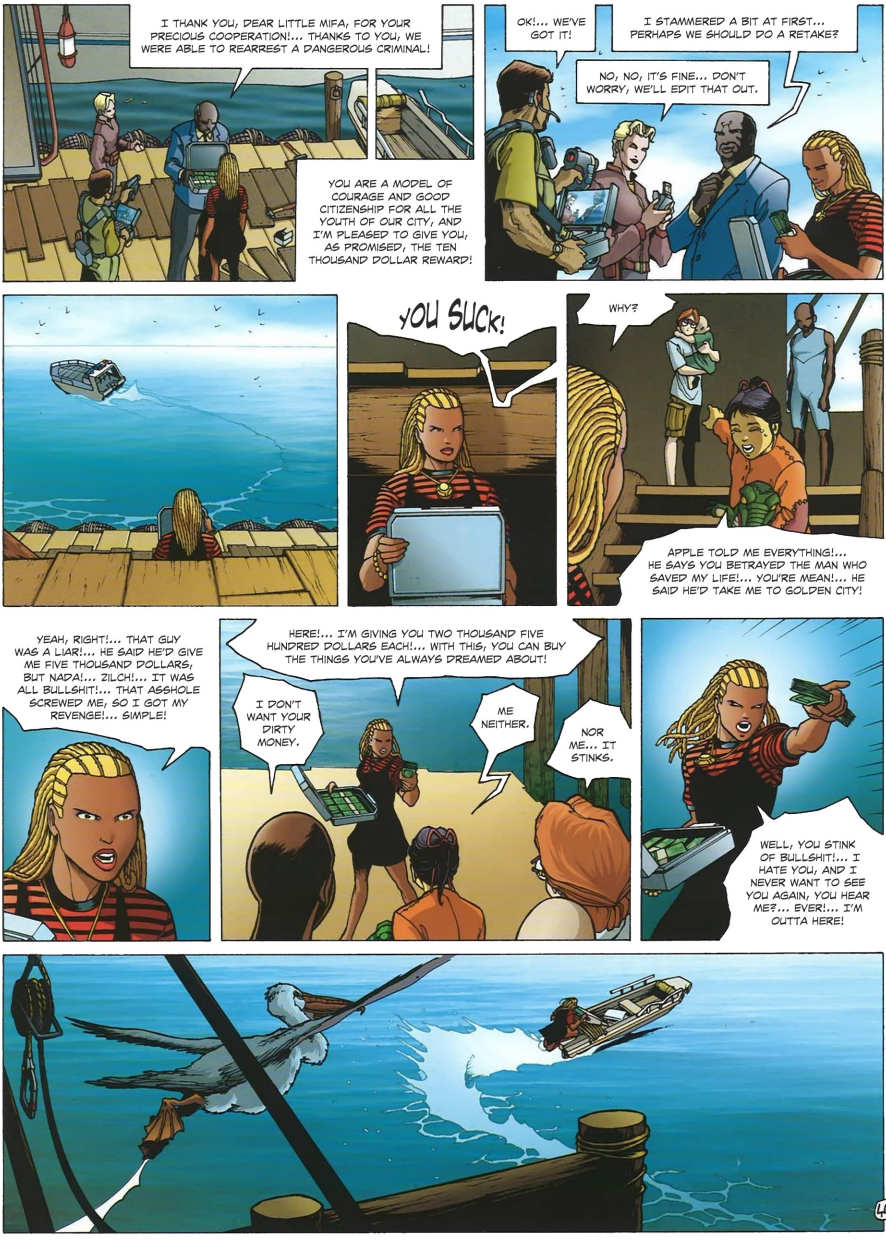
YES!... WHO'S HE?
THE CHIEF LIEUTENANT OF POLICE. A REAL BASTARD... WHEN I WAS LITTLE AND RAN AWAY, HE KICKED MY ASS ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE ORPHANAGE.

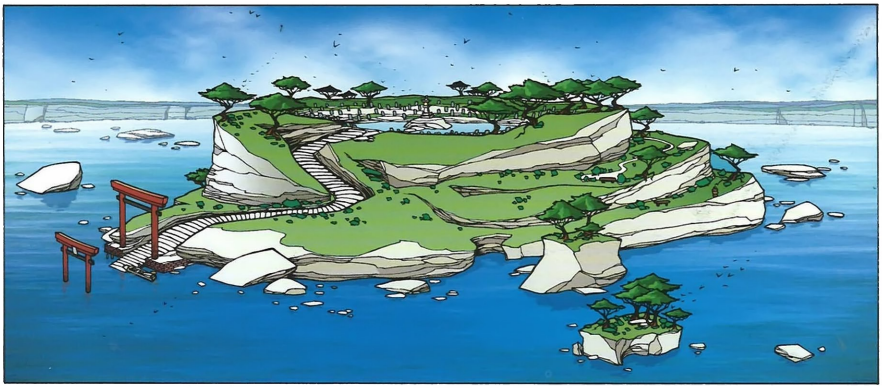
KEEP COOL AND STAY UP THERE UNTIL THEY'RE GONE, OKAY?...


WHY DOESN'T MIFA WANT US WITH HER?
SHE'S AFRAID WE'LL RUIN HER LITTLE PARTY.
IS SHE ASHAMED OF US?

SHE SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF HERSELF!
HOW COME?
BECAUSE SHE'S SELLING HIM OUT.
WHO?

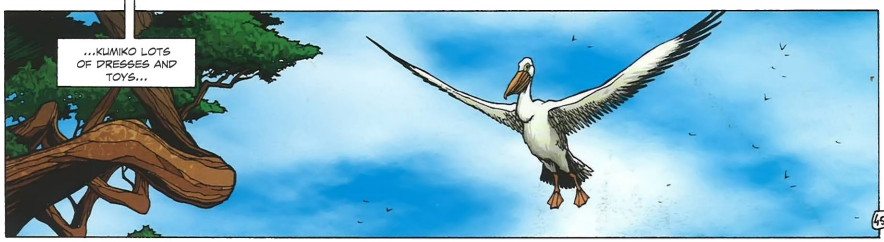
ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE FORCE I THANK YOU, YOUNG LADY... UH, WHAT'S YOUR NAME AGAIN?
MIFA.

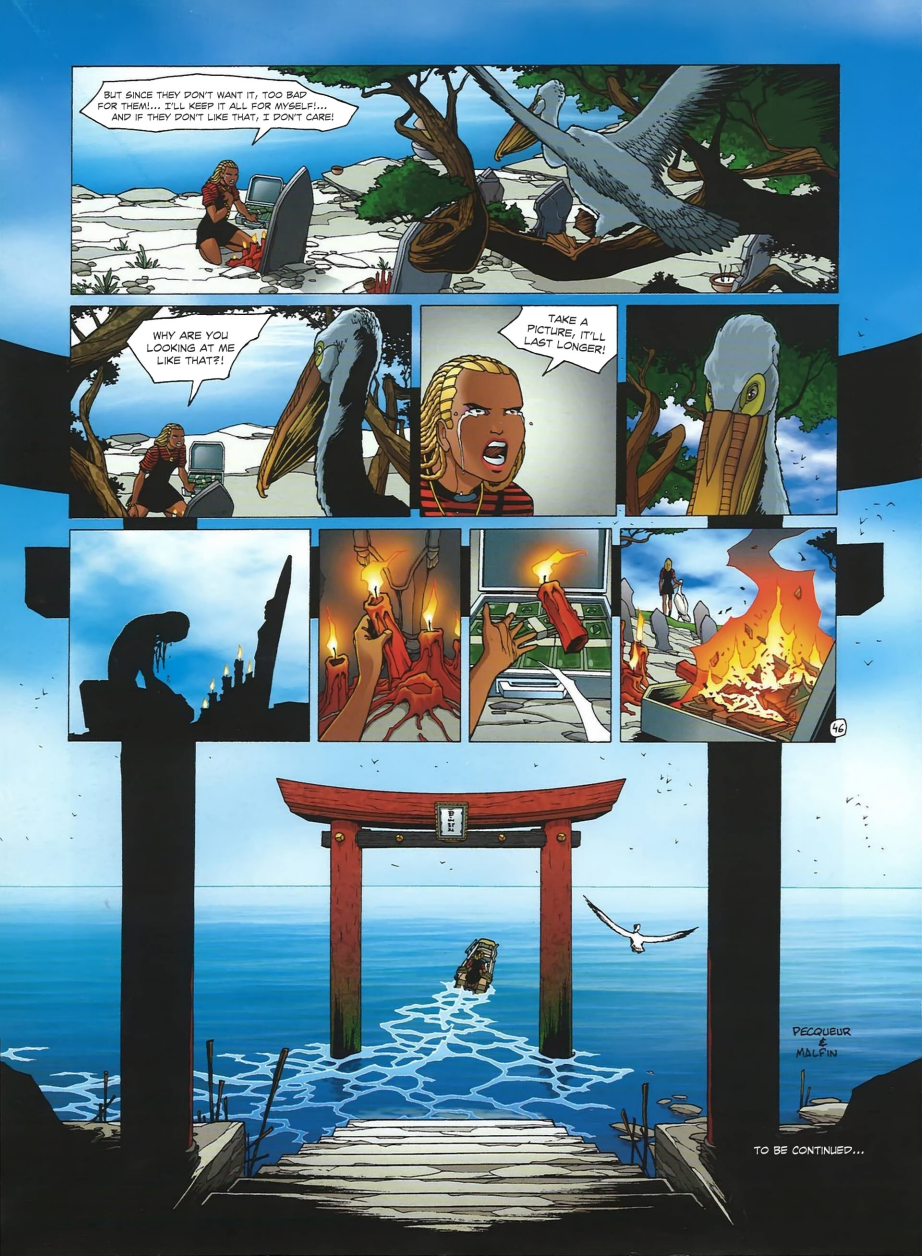

I THANK YOU, DEAR LITTLE MIFA, FOR YOUR PRECIOUS COOPERATION!... THANKS TO YOU, WE WERE ABLE TO REARREST A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL!
YOU ARE A MODEL OF COURAGE AND GOOD CITIZENSHIP FOR ALL THE YOUTH OF OUR CITY, AND I'M PLEASED TO GIVE YOU, AS PROMISED, THE TEN THOUSAND DOLLAR REWARD!
OK!... WE'VE GOT IT!
I STAMMERED A BIT AT FIRST... PERHAPS WE SHOULD DO A RETAKE?
NO, NO, IT'S FINE... DON'T WORRY, WE'LL EDIT THAT OUT.
YOU SUCK!
WHY?
APPLE TOLD ME EVERYTHING!... HE SAYS YOU BETRAYED THE MAN WHO SAVED MY LIFE!... YOU'RE MEAN!... HE SAID HE'D TAKE ME TO GOLDEN CITY!
YEAH, RIGHT!... THAT GUY WAS A LIAR!... HE SAID HE'D GIVE ME FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS, BUT NADA!... ZILCH!... IT WAS ALL BULLSHIT!... THAT ASSHOLE SCREWED ME, SO I GOT MY REVENGE!... SIMPLE!
HERE!... I'M GIVING YOU TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS EACH!... WITH THIS, YOU CAN BUY THE THINGS YOU'VE ALWAYS DREAMED ABOUT!
I DON'T WANT YOUR DIRTY MONEY.
ME NEITHER.
NOR ME... IT STINKS.
WELL, YOU STINK OF BULLSHIT!... I HATE YOU, AND I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN, YOU HEAR ME?... EVER!... I'M OUTTA HERE!



I WANTED TO SHARE IT WITH THEM, MAMA... I THOUGHT IT WOULD MAKE THEM HAPPY...

I THOUGHT SOLO COULD FINALLY BUY A NEW GUITAR, APPLE A NEW COMPUTER, AND...


...KUMIKO LOTS OF DRESSES AND TOYS...


BUT SINCE THEY DON'T WANT IT, TOO BAD FOR THEM!... I'LL KEEP IT ALL FOR MYSELF!... AND IF THEY DON'T LIKE THAT, I DON'T CARE!
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?!
TAKE A PICTURE, IT'LL LAST LONGER!
46
DECQUEUR & MALFIN
TO BE CONTINUED...

Genre
Adventure

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THE CHARACTERS

BANKS: The director of one of the most powerful pharmaceutical companies in the world, and husband to Jessica. Grew up in Golden City, an exclusive floating metropolis reserved only for the rich.

MIFA, APPLE, SOLO and KUMIKO: Orphans who were thrown out onto the streets. They've become a family, and live as Wreckers, plundering wrecks in the ocean depths.

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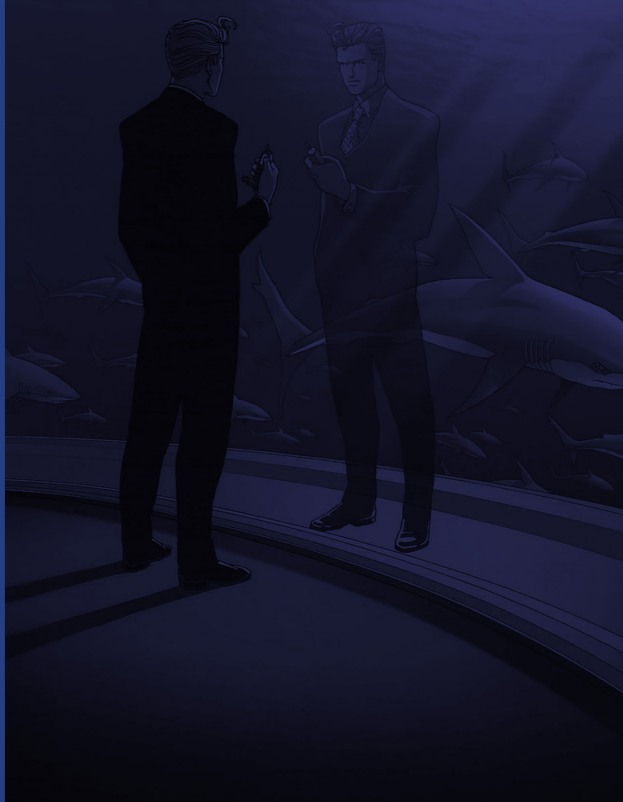
THE STORY

Spring 2099. When Harrison Banks learns that his wife Jessica was lost in a plane crash at sea, he goes looking for her. He's unaware of the terrible reality that he's a victim of a conspiracy and that his troubles are only just beginning...